

STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



Thursday, September 5, 2013

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Attacker who set ex on fire locked up

A MAN from Dudley who poured petrol on his ex-girlfriend before setting her alight and turning her into a human 'fireball' has been jailed for 19 years.

Damion Sheldon, of Russells Hall Road, went to Louise Pilkington's Rowley Regis home and poured petrol through her letterbox, before dousing her in it when she came to the door to see what was going on, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Witnesses had described seeing her burn 'like a fireball' after she was set alight on December 2.

A child was rescued from inside the property and had to be resuscitated, while another child escaped unharmed. The jury took three-and-a-half hours to find him guilty of attempted murder following a trial in July.

Sheldon had told the jury he had gone to Miss Pilkington's home with the intention of killing himself in front of her after struggling to get over the breakdown of their relationship.

Sentencing him Judge John Warner said: "If you intended to kill yourself you obviously thought the better of it as you went on to set fire to the house and then made off."

He was jailed for 15 years for the attempted murder and four years for the arson charge.

Marlene in hospice fun

FAMILIES can join in the fun at an annual summer fete taking place in the grounds of Mary Stevens Hospice this Saturday.

Bric-a-brac stalls, dance displays and games are being laid on for the event at the Stourbridge hospice.

Black Country comedienne Marlene is starring at the event as 'Mystic Marlene' try to predict guests' future with her usual humour.

The event will be staged at the Hagley Road centre from 11am to 3.30pm.

400 JOBS ON OFFER FOR SUPERMARKET

ABOUT 400 jobs will go up for grabs at Stourbridge's new Tesco supermarket next month, with an employment fair kicking off the recruitment drive.

The firm is on track to open the new £50 million store in the Crown Centre, by the end of this year.

Bosses have already held invitation-only employment events for long-term unemployed in the borough - but from September 26, jobs will be made available to everyone starting at the fair in Cradley Heath.

The event will be at the Salvation Army, in Meredith Street, from 11am to 3pm. It has been organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

It is the second year Mr Morris has held the event - last year it was attended by more than 700 people.

Staircases

Tesco decided to sponsor this event ahead of a recruitment drive for the new store in the town centre.

The store is close to being finished, with the two shopping floors and staircases now complete.

Brickwork is now being laid around the structure.

Simon Petar, spokesman for Tesco, said: "We are very excited to support the jobs fair."

"These are promising times for Stourbridge and employing locally is some-

by Alex Ross

thing we are passionate about. People should come down to the fair to see not just what Tesco have on offer, but also the other companies at the event."

Jaguar Land Rover, National Express and the Black Country Skills Shop at Merry Hill will also be at the event.

Mr Morris said: "Last year's jobs fair was so successful that I decided to split it into two events this year - an apprenticeship and skills fair in the spring, aimed at school-leavers and young people, and this jobs fair in September for people who are looking for full-time work."

Matthew Griffiths, community coordinator at Cradley Heath Salvation Army, said: "We are delighted to be hosting this event and hope that as many people as possible will come along and find the job that they are looking for."

Anyone wanting information on the event should call 0121 5506777.

Families barge in for free trips



Chris Leach with, from left, Layla Marklew, Freya Brown, Lyndon Wood, all aged four, Edward McGee, six, and Harrison Marklew, two, at the canalide for the Black Country fun day event which was held at the weekend

FAMILIES saw the Black Country by water as they jumped aboard a narrowboat during a fun day this weekend.

Almost 200 people took trips along the Dudley No2 Canal as part of an event organised to showcase the region's waterways.

The event had been organised in conjunction with Coombswood Canal Trust and charity Groundwork West Midlands.

The community project organisation has helped waterways enthusiasts clean up towpaths to make them more appealing to visitors.

Volunteers have been busy tidying the canal, which runs from Tipton, through Dudley, Netherton and Halesowen. It has been targeted by vandals and flytippers over the years. Yobs have also sprayed graffiti over signs along the canal dedicated to the workers of manufacturers Noah Hingley and Sons, who built the Titanic anchor.

But as part of the improvements Cradley Heath-based artist Luke Perry was commissioned to install 24 pieces of artwork along the canal towpaths that depicted local features and reflected the rich industrial heritage of the area. Volunteers have also been

working with Dudley Canal Trust which is planning a £3 million investment in a new education centre in the town.

Saturday's trips on a 70ft long narrowboat called Electra started at Chancel Way in Halesowen including taking in the Hawne basin and Gorsty Hill tunnel.

Groundwork project manager Chris Leach said: "It has been a great family day out. Many people have said to us 'I never knew this was down here', and that's what it has all been about."

There was also a host of other family activities including a visit by an animal experience company and face painting.

Mayor to open new £50k wing for centre

A DUDLEY watersports centre will make a splash as it opens its new £50,000 wing and celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch, will officially launch the wing, paid for with a grant from the National Lottery's Sport England Facilities Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Fund, on Saturday.

The centre, at Lodge Farm Reservoir in Netherton, will offer free sailing, triathlon and swimming and reduced rate water skiing and wakeboarding over the whole weekend.

The lottery grant has created new changing rooms, including provision for people with disabilities, a new training room and a sports teaching facility.

Visitors can have a go at water skiing and wakeboarding, with tuition followed by a session on the water for £7 a head. Places need to be booked by calling Karen Patchett on 07595 355 291 or emailing karenp116@aol.com

For £3.50 a head, people can ride on a ringo - a round rubber ring with handles, seating up to two, which is towed along by a boat.

There will be motor boat trips for £1.50 a person, while visitors can try sailing with an instructor free of charge and qualified divers can enjoy a free dive.

Westfield in profits loss

THE owners of the Merry Hill Shopping Centre saw a fall in profits in the first half of the year, it has been announced.

The net profits of the Westfield Group were down by 36 per cent to £332 million as sales of less profitable malls reduced overall revenue.

The Australian group has £1.8 billion worth of malls under development, including the retail section of the World Trade Centre in New York which is due for completion in 2015.

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Appeal on gold watch robbery



The stolen watch

POLICE hunting three masked men who pinned a woman to her bed during a 'brutal' robbery at her home have released an image of a watch which belonged to her dead husband that was stolen during the raid.

The 52-year-old widow was targeted at her home in Fox Street, Woodsetton, on Thursday night.

Her screams eventually forced the gang to flee but they took two watches, one of which belonged to the woman's husband who died seven years ago.

De Darren Brown said: "This was an extremely brutal attack on a defenceless woman. The watch is of extreme sentimental value, as it was bought for the lady's husband's 40th birthday, who sadly died five years later."

"The watch, a gold Swiss Ebel with a cream face, is very distinctive as it has been made smaller to fit a woman's wrist. The family are desperate to recover it." Anyone with information can contact police on 101.

Women are urged to get laced up in time for race

WOMEN are being urged to lace up their trainers ready to take part in the latest Race for Life fundraising race to be held in the Midlands.

Cancer Research UK is hosting its Race for Life Twilight in the grounds of Himley Hall on October 18 starting at 7pm.

The 5k race will follow a course taking in the picturesque location of the 18th century manor house including the gardens designed by Capability Brown.

To enter Race for Life Twilight visit www.raceforlife.org/twilight or call 0845 600 6050.

Jail for men after police found a gun

TWO men who had a pump action shotgun in their car in Dudley town centre were jailed for five years.

Police went to investigate the blue Ford Mondeo in Bull Street on February 1 because there was a strong smell of cannabis, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

As they got closer to the vehicle, passenger Imran Ahmed, of Victoria Road, Tipton, ran away, while the driver Mohammed Rahman remained at the wheel. Mr Christopher Gibbons, prosecuting, said officers noted the 'alarmed and panicky demeanour' of Rahman, of Tudor Road, Tipton, before they saw the firearm.

Rahman, aged 31, was arrested and a firearms expert was then called. After officers found a tracksuit top belonging to 33-year-old Ahmed near the Earl of Dudley pub, he was found and arrested.

Ahmed had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to the possession of a prohibited weapon. Rahman admitted the same charge.

New appeal is launched to find missing Natalie

by Louise Jew

FRIENDS and family of a teenage girl who vanished when she left her Dudley home to go to the shops have launched a fresh appeal to find her – 10 years since she was last seen.

Natalie Putt, of Thornleigh, Lower Gornal, Dudley, was 17 when she disappeared on September 1, 2003. She never returned, despite having a three-month-old baby son, named Rhys, at home.

Now, a decade later, friends and relatives have renewed their appeals to find Natalie – blitzing social networking websites with appeals for help, including tweets to stars such as Ant and Dec, Lord Sugar, ex-Spice Girl Emma Bunton, Jonathan Ross and Boy George.

Natalie's half sister, 36-year-old Rebecca Coggins, said: "We've got to believe there is still some hope that she's out there somewhere and it would be nice to think she's made her own little life and is happy."

"But we need to know – that's the agony. We don't think she would have gone off and left her baby – there's got to be more to it than meets the eye."

Equipment

"But we have to face the possibility there was something made her leave that day. Natalie going missing has been a journey that you wouldn't wish on anybody."

In March police hunting for Natalie started digging up land in a paddock, where she is believed to have once kept two horses, next to Himley Lodge on the A449 Stourbridge Road in Himley.

Hydraulic equipment was used to cut through the concrete floor of a brick outbuilding but police called off the search after finding nothing nearly three days later.

The following month, police revealed that the case of missing Natalie was one of six 'cold' cases about which they were appealing to the public for help in solving – the other five cases were murders.

Rebecca said friends had been busy tweeting a 'missing' poster about Natalie since yesterday and a fresh plea was posted on a Facebook page set up to try to find her.

"I haven't got a clue about Twitter but they have and they're contacting everybody they can think of, even celebrities who don't know her, to retweet the appeal in the hope that it will bring some news," she added.

"I'll be catching up with them later about what response they may have had."

"We will keep the campaign up and running



One of the last photographs taken of Natalie and baby Rhys

and will never give up – while there's hope we will keep going."

TV presenters Holly Willoughby, Kirstie Allsop, Kate Thornton and Jake Humphrey and actress Amanda Holden are among the celebrities invited to retweet the appeal.

Natalie's son, Rhys, is now aged 10 and living with his father, the missing girl's boyfriend Kevin McCallum.

In March 2009, Natalie was featured on a missing person programme, which sparked reported sightings of her in Tipton, Cardiff, Bournemouth and Scotland dating back to 2005.

But, despite police investigations into the sightings, they drew a blank.

West Midlands Police spokesman Brig Ford



An image released of how Natalie might look today, aged 24



The teenager in school uniform

said today: "The case is still open and if any credible information comes in we will act upon it, as we did in March, when we brought in special equipment to search the land in Himley."

Sheena Hamilton, who used to own Himley Lodge and now lives next door in Himley Park, said today: "I feel desperately sorry for the family and just hope their new appeal brings some answers – I'm certain that somebody must know something about what has happened to Natalie."

"She was a lovely girl and was only a kid – but she loved her baby and I don't believe there's any way she would have just left him."

Anyone with information that might help to find Natalie is urged to phone police on 101.

Club tees off for donation

FORTY golfers teed off in a charity golf day which raised more than £900 to help fund an advice centre in Stourbridge.

The event, held at the Little Lakes Golf Club in Bewdley, was organised by What? Centre counsellor Steve Woodall.

Steve, who is also a keen golfer, managed to attract competitors from as far away as London to compete for the trophy.

Julie Duffy, chief officer of the What? centre said she was 'absolutely delighted' with the effort Steve had made and thanked him for his commitment to raising funds for the work of the centre.

The event, on August 17, was won by Carl Cashmore, with Tony Beard as runner-up.

Parade service details released

DETAILS have been announced for the annual Battle of Britain commemorations in Stourbridge.

The members of the Stourbridge branch of the Royal Air Forces Association will hold the annual Parade Service on September 15 at 11am in Mary Stevens Park, off Heath Lane.

All are welcome including with anyone with links to the RAF to come along.

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Pair found injured in the street at village

A MAN and woman were discovered lying injured on a Kinner street in the early hours, following a night out.

Police say the pair were found in Enville Road in Kinner just after 1am on Sunday. Residents say it is believed they were attacked on their way home.

Officers took the man, in his 40s, to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham where his condition was described as serious, although at the time of going to press, he was stable.

The woman, who is also in her 40s, was discovered a short distance away with head injuries and she was taken to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley, she was released on Monday morning. Officers say the pair are both believed to be from the local area.

Inspector Jeff Knight said: "We have police working within the local area on highly visible patrol to speak to members of the community and they are keen to speak to local residents about any information they might have which could help us identify what happened."

A resident who didn't want to be named claimed the couple had been attacked after a night out.

However, police now say that there was no evidence to suggest that an assault had taken place. They are appealing for anyone with information to get in touch via 101.

Children in station visit

YOUNGSTERS from a summer club joined their teachers to experience life behind bars at a Black Country police station.

Officers opened the cell blocks to the pupils of Queen Victoria Primary School in Sedgley to talk about why arrests are made and how the person is dealt with when in custody.

Bosses hope the event will help improve relations with police and act as a deterrent to prevent children from getting involved with crime.

Sgt Richard Cruickshank, from the Sedgley and Gornal Neighbourhood Team, said: "We wanted to do something that would strike a real chord with the young children in the area. The children seemed to have had a very good day and the feedback is very encouraging."

In the saddle to raise cash for Acorns Hospice



Acorns dad Andrew Gibney with his son Charlie and pal Darren Warner after completing the 40-mile challenge

THE ride may have 'tired' them out but the 200 cyclists who took part in the Acorns Severn Valley Cycle Challenge were left feeling geared up after a sunny day of cycling to raise funds for the local children's hospice.

The event was attended by parents Claire and Brett Groom, from Kingswinford, whose daughter Isla was cared for by the hospice before she passed away last year from the rare genetic condition, Edwards Syndrome. The couple started some of the races and cheered on participants with their two other daughters Sian and Niamh.

Cyclists rode one of three different courses to match their ability, with 10, 20

and 40 mile routes all winding through stunning Severn Valley countryside before finishing in picturesque Bewdley.

After the race, participants relaxed with a scenic journey back to their starting points on the famous Severn Valley Steam Railway. Among those who displayed their pedal power in the cycle challenge were Walsall-based 28-year-old dad, Andrew Gibney, and his friend 37-year-old Darren Warner from West Bromwich. The pair completed the 40 mile challenge.

Andrew said: "I'm ready to sleep for a week... it was a lot harder than I thought it would be especially as I only spent a couple of weeks training. But I did it for

my son Charlie who goes to the hospice because he has a form of severe epilepsy which is life limiting.

I'm so thankful to Acorns as they provide such amazing care and support for Charlie and our family."

For those eager for more fun challenges, there are plenty of events left on Acorns' fundraising calendar to consider. Supporters can run for the charity in the Bupa Great Birmingham Run on October 20 or walk the 12km Lantern Walk, in Walsall on October 12.

To find out more about the work of Acorns and how to help raise vital funds call Acorns on: 0845 120 6892 or visit: www.acorns.org.uk

Heritage experts hit out at college site makeover

A MULTI-MILLION pound makeover of a college campus in the Black Country has come under fire from heritage experts.

English Heritage says it has some concerns over proposals for a new entrance to the Stourbridge College site in Hagley Road, fearing it would look out of place with neighbouring 19th century and grade II listed properties.

The revamped entrance is part of a £5million scheme at site formerly known as Stourbridge College, but which has changed its name following a merger with Birmingham Metropolitan College. It also includes a new health and social care centre.

Under plans lodged with Dudley Council, there would be a new frontage to the site, now called Hagley Road Campus of Birmingham Metropolitan College, as well as two new three-storey teaching blocks.

One fills a space between two existing buildings and the other is a side extension.

Alan Taylor from English Heritage said the organisation was not against the scheme in principle, but it believed some aspects of the design for the new entrance needed 'reconsideration'.

In a letter to the council, he said: "English Heritage objects to the current design

by Heather Large

for the entrance block, which does not relate harmoniously to either the 19th century housing in Hagley Road or to views towards the grade II listed Founder's House at Stourbridge Hospital."

The new teaching blocks will provide a new home for the college's health and social care department, which is currently based in a building due to be demolished.

The college's director of estates, John Starmer, said: "The proposed scheme design and landscape will improve the existing relationship between the college and its local environment."

"We are continuing to work closely with the council's planning and conservation officers and English Heritage as a statutory consultee to explain the proposals and their positive contribution to the surrounding area."

£5,000 prize is won

SOCIAL enterprises have competed for a £5,000 award, as part of a scheme run by Dudley Council. The money, won by Universal Support CIC, has been funded through the community enterprise fund.

Alongside the award winner, nine competing social enterprises took part in the challenge and will now be offered a package of support such as one-to-one business mentoring. Universal Support, which works with various groups of vulnerable people, was chosen for its innovative quality and the clear community benefit it provides. It offers pottery painting, which is then sold into the local community.

Family roped in to win host of offers



Caroline Painter looks on as Eve, David, Jesse and Jude Painter try out the ropes course at Quest at Merry Hill

A FAMILY is celebrating after being chosen from 210 applicants for a VIP role at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

David and Caroline Painter and their three children Jude, aged nine, Eve, eight and Jesse, five, will advise bosses on how to make the centre more fun for families.

And as their 'salary', the family from Wombourne will receive a host of goodies throughout the year including a £300 gift card, a meal out every season, unlimited access to attractions such as the cinema and Quest, Krispy

Kreme doughnuts on their birthdays and a family VIP parking space. The family had impressed managers with their application, which saw them write 150 words on why they would be perfect for the role.

Mrs Painter, 39, who works at Compton Hospice, in Wolverhampton said: "We heard about the competition and thought we would give it a go."

She added: "We're absolutely thrilled to have been appointed - we know the competition was fierce and with the fantastic salary we're not surprised.

We can't wait to get started." Their jobs could range from choosing children's characters to visit the centre or deciding who should switch on the Christmas lights.

Kelly Reed, senior marketing manager at Merry Hill, said: "We were very impressed by their emphasis on the importance of family time. With our popular parent group Mummy Mornings, fantastic parent rooms, kids' facilities and brilliant calendar of family events we're constantly looking to improve the family experience."

NEWS in brief

Estate all set for litter event

A COMMUNITY litter pick is due to take place on a Dudley housing estate. The Ellowes Hall and area Tenants and Residents Association is organising the event for September 21.

The group is appealing for volunteers to meet members at Ellowes Hall School, Stickley Lane, Lower Gornal at 9.30am. The litter pick will take place until 1pm and the association is asking anyone who has some time to spare to join in. Volunteers of all ages are welcome.

Councillor Steve Waltho, cabinet member for housing, said: "It is excellent to see the Ellowes Hall and area TRA arranging this litter pick on the estate. This litter pick will help make the area a cleaner and safer place for all residents."

Bags, high visibility jackets and gloves will be provided. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

Speed campaign launch for village

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to put the brakes on drivers speeding near homes in a Black Country village.

Calls have been made for improved measures along Cotwall End Road, in Lower Gornal, near to its junction with Grafton Gardens.

Councillor Tim Wright said he had received a number of complaints about speeding motorists from concerned residents.

He is now petitioning the council for a speed advisory sign along the route urging drivers to slow down. Councillor Wright said: "The problems are taking place in a mainly residential part of Cotwall End Road and residents are very concerned."

Rock festival for fossil fans at hall

THE popular Rock and Fossil Festival returns to Dudley on September 28 and 29, at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery and Dudley Town Hall.

The council-run festival is the largest fossil event in the Midlands and features stalls selling rocks, fossils, minerals gems and jewellery alongside a fascinating series of talks and activities for families.

Admission is £2.60 for adults, £1.60 for children aged four to 15 and £3 for a family ticket which admits two adults and three children. Under-4s go free.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



WE WILL not go to war. Parliament stood up to the Government. The anger, suspicion and fears of the British people were brilliantly expressed by our elected members in some fine speeches and the Prime Minister wisely backed down. This is how the House of Commons is supposed to work, but rarely does. Thursday night's vote was like a cruise missile. No-one saw it coming.

□□□□□□□□

AFTER the enormous and enduring cock-ups of Iraq and Afghanistan, we should have learned enough by now to leave Syria well alone. Syria is not some clapped-out house of cards like Saddam's Iraq or Gaddafi's Libya. Syria has an army which is still fiercely loyal to President Assad. It is three times as big as the British Army and is equipped with some extremely deadly Russian hardware. Syria has allies including Hizbollah and Iran who may soon have the technology to lob chemical warheads into Europe. Above all, the lesson of history in the Middle East is that when dictators fall, chaos follows and the last thing the locals ever feel is one iota of gratitude towards the West.

□□□□□□□□

TONY Blair is in favour of military intervention. He has clearly learned nothing.

□□□□□□□□

FOLLOWING my invitation to re-write classic lines in modern terms, a reader re-drafts the opening sentence of *Pride and Prejudice*: "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a large fortune must be in need of a civil partner of either, or both sexual inclinations and be perfectly entitled to marry if they so desire".

□□□□□□□□

INCIDENTALLY, it is possible to buy versions of *Pride and Prejudice* in simplified modern English. Like, everybody knows that a dude wiv she'd loads of money needs a missus, innit?

□□□□□□□□

OKAY, call me small-minded. Call me a Little Englander. You may even be excused for hissing "racist!" But I bet I wasn't the only Brit whose hackles rose as Beth West explained the alleged benefits of the HS2 high-speed train on Radio 4 this week. She challenged British industry to "step up" and ensure this £30 billion (£42 billion? £70 billion? £100 billion?) white elephant is constructed. West is commercial director of HS2 Ltd but started her career with the US Government on Capitol Hill before becoming a New York banker. In barely 100 years, from the extermination of the buffalo, to the dustbowl of the mid-West and the ruins of bankrupt Detroit, the Yanks have made a right mess of their own country. Somehow, I rather resent being told by anyone with an American accent that I must accept the despoiling of my green, well-tended and still rather pleasant little land by a screaming 250mph behemoth that none of my English friends actually wants.

□□□□□□□□

WE HAVE just received our newsletter from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. I can't help reflecting that when we joined, back in the 1980s, it had very few members but there were an awful lot of hedgehogs. Today the society has 12,000 members but there are very few hedgehogs. Curious.

□□□□□□□□

I INVITED you to re-write great texts from history in modern terms. One reader offers this, from Winston Churchill: "I have nothing to offer but circulatory fluid, a rosy glow, the gentle application of elbow grease and blubbery and whimpering."

□□□□□□□□

NEARLY 25,000 students applied for courses at the University of Liberia and it was reported this week that every single one had failed the admission test. A spokesman for the African university said the youngsters "lacked enthusiasm and did not have a basic grasp of English." They could always try media studies in England.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Wife found football coach hanged



Coach Darren Owen

A YOUTH team football coach who was hailed for his work with youngsters was found hanged by his wife at their home, an inquest heard.

Father-of-two Darren Owen, who managed Stourbridge Football Club Under-11s, had recently been promoted to the role of senior operations manager with BT, the hearing in Walsall was told.

His wife of nine years, Rebecca Owen, said that her 36-year-old husband had become worried about work in the months leading up to his death on December 8. She said she had rushed home from work after receiving a call from him saying: "I love you but I can't do

this anymore." Mr Owen, who also leaves behind his two sons, Luke and Joe, was found hanged from the loft space at their home in Thoresby Croft, Dudley. Speaking about her husband during the inquest, Mrs Owen said he was a 'confident' and 'intelligent' person.

She said he was committed to his job with BT and had progressed from apprentice to senior operation manager in 15 years. Mrs Owen added: "In the last six months prior to his death he did worry and he did question himself."

She said he had become concerned about what was expected of him in his new role after the recent promotion. Mrs

Owen said he started working from home a lot and felt he 'did not know which way to turn' to get support.

Jenny Davies, general manager at Openreach - part of the BT group - had given Mr Owen the promotion. She said she had been 'extremely impressed' by him and thought he had been fitting into the role very well.

Delivering the conclusion Mr Owen killed himself, Senior Coroner Robin Balmain said: "There were clearly no suspicious circumstances." He said Mr Owen had a busy job but it was not possible to say whether any stress caused by the new role had caused him to take his life.

Raider hid under bed to escape pursuers

A DRUNK burglar was caught red-handed when he was discovered hiding under a bed belonging to a pensioner who was away on holiday.

Matthew Harding said he entered the house in Envile Street, Stourbridge, believing it was derelict.

Harding, aged 25 and of no fixed address, had been involved in a fight and was trying to hide, but the judge at Wolverhampton Crown Court sentenced him to 26 weeks in prison.

He was found with cigarettes, mobile phones and torches while hiding under the bed, although it was in doubt as to what property actually belonged to the 66-year-old male occupier.

Prosecutor Alka Brigue told the court that an alarm went off and the police were notified. "When the property was searched they heard a noise upstairs and the defendant was discovered hiding under the bed."

"It was clear to police he was intoxicated at the time."

The burglary took place on March 30 and Harding took the case to trial at Dudley Magistrates Court after pleading not guilty.

Defending her client, Kate Thomas told the court that Harding - a qualified gas fitter - had a drug problem. She added: "He's adamant he intends to change his ways."

Scout group gets ale ready

A SEDGLEY scout group is to hold its first ever beer festival. The First Sedgley group holds the event in its headquarters, Jubilee Hall in Ladies Walk on September 27 and 28.

There will be 20 real ales on offer at the festival which is being held to raise money for group funds and for the BBG's Children in Need Appeal. The festival will run on the Friday from 7pm to 11pm and on the Saturday from noon through to 11pm.

Keen Civil talk

TEACHER Max Keen will dress up in character to speak to Stourbridge Historical Society about the English Civil War in Worcester-shire. The society hosts his talk at the Amblesote Room in Stourbridge Town Hall on September 19 at 7.30pm. For details call David Hickman on 01384 274014.

Officers seize 20,000 smuggled cigarettes

by Heather Large

MORE than 20,000 smuggled cigarettes and 170 bottles of illegal alcohol have been seized by trading standards officers in Dudley during the past year.

The haul recovered by the team at Dudley Council following a series of raids on premises across the borough is worth thousands of pounds.

In total 20,378 smuggled cigarettes valued at £7,000, 50 packets of counterfeit rolling tobacco and 173 bottles of illegal booze worth £2,000, which had not had the duty paid on them, have been confiscated since July 2012.

The figures were released as part of an annual report into the joint work between trading standards and police.

They also reveal that officers also carried out 240 covert test purchases at shops to see if owners were selling to underage drinkers and smokers.

A total of 15 fixed penalty notices and 12 reviews of the licence at premises were handed out for the illegal sale of alcohol.

They also handed out information and signs promoting the legal age for buying alcohol and cigarettes and advice to traders regarding the law.

Importance

Cabinet member for environment and culture, Councillor Tracy Wood, said: "We have had a hugely successful year in cracking down on the sale of alcohol and cigarettes to under age people."

"We advise owners about the importance of obeying the law and take action against those who ignore it. This work sends out a clear message that we will help traders understand the legal requirements, but clamp down on those who break the law."

The work has been partly funded by the council's office of public health.

It is part of a drive to tackle underage smoking and drinking.

Councillor Stuart Turner, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "This goes a long way to tackling smoking in the borough by stopping the sale of cigarettes to young people who later become addicted."

"I look forward to more success from trading standards in helping protect the health and well being of the borough."

Trading standards carry out more than 600 visits to retailers across the borough.



Trading standards officer Chris King with the haul of alcohol and cigarettes seized by the council

Sight charity tennis sessions

A CHARITY which helps blind and partially-sighted people across Dudley borough has launched its own tennis sessions.

The monthly classes are being run by the Pocklington Trust Resource and Information Centre, based in Stourbridge.

The sessions are free and take place at the David Lloyd Leisure Centre, in Pensnett, Brierley Hill.

Participants use a larger ball which contains metal bearings and are allowed a certain number of bounces depending on their level of sight loss.

Resource centre support worker David Raybould said he had been delighted at the uptake so

far but was keen to encourage as many people as possible to take part. "We use badminton courts with the nets dropped down and give people junior rackets to play with," he said.

"It has proved so popular we are currently booking four courts at a time."

The resource centre, based at the Mary Stevens Centre, in Hagley Road, Oldswinford, is part of the Thomas Pocklington Trust, a charity which aims to improve the quality of life of people with sight loss.

Call David at the resource centre on 01384 889882 or email david.raybould@pocklington-trust.org.uk for more details.

Oliver Adams

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Presenter in guide to waterways

BLACK Country-born writer and radio presenter Graham Fisher has launched a new online guide to the region's waterways and the role they played serving heavy industry.

The internet guide called The Crystal Canal is designed as a self-guided walk along the Stourbridge Canal.

It is the latest in The Royal Geographical Society's Discovering Britain series and examines the myriad of glass works and other industries from the perspective of the canal that runs right through it. Based on Mr Fisher's 2010 book *Jewels on the Cut*, the guide is available as a free audio or PDF download.

The PDF can be printed off as a hard copy and the author has also provided a voice soundtrack so that can be used as an audio guide. Visit www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/region/west-midlands/stourbridge-canal.html#tabbox for details.

Shortlist for health group

THE organisation that organises healthcare for Dudley people has been shortlisted for a national award for helping patients to manage their long-term health problems.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group's Community Neurology and Disability Team is among the finalists in the 2013 Health Service Journal awards.

The winners, to be judged by 85 senior and influential figures in the health sector, will be announced on November 19 at the Grosvenor House Hotel.

Charity invite to walkies up hills

DOG owners are invited to go 'walkies' over the Clent Hills, near Stourbridge, in aid of charity. The walk will start at Nimmings car park at 10am on September 29.

There will be a £6 donation fee for dog walkers. Further information is available from the organiser, Sue Williams, on 01562 883834, ahead of the event.

Chairman goes

COUNCILLOR Jackie Granger, chairman of the Wombourne Best Kept Village team, is to stand down as committee chairman.

Ian to bare his soul about problems growing up



Ian Thomas will tell his story

A MAN from Dudley will bare his soul to an international audience in Japan, telling the moving story of his life with over 30 foster families and his battle to beat drug addiction and feelings of rejection.

Ian Thomas, aged 27, spent seven years in foster care and is ready to speak about his experience to a conference called 'Let's Move Forward Hand in Hand for the Children' in Osaka from September 13 to 16.

Ian, now working for the Core Assets care organisation, will talk about his time as a troubled youngster, coping with fear and feelings of low self-esteem. He plans to write a book about his experiences, and said: "I was 10 when I went into care in the south of England because my parents couldn't look after me. I found school very difficult. I was dyslexic, and was

quite angry and felt let down. Sometimes my way of showing I was hurting was by negative behaviour." He went on to live with more than 30 foster families in the south of England.

And he credits his last foster mother, a woman living in the Isle of Wight recruited by Core Assets, with turning him around by offering him a 'nurturing' home.

Confidence

He added: "It is thanks to the support networks around me - my brilliant foster mother, Jane, who stuck with me during my first two years in care with Core Assets, and the encouragement from staff - that has enabled me to turn my life around. I am grateful to those who believed in me, helping me to regain my confidence and to talk openly about my life."

His speech to the International Fostering Care Organisation conference will recount his journey, including his struggle to overcome drug addiction, poor education and lack of school attendance, to leading professionals in child welfare from across the world.

After a year of travelling across Canada, Australia the Far and Middle East, he has now landed a job as a project officer with Core Assets. Core assets has 60 offices across the UK, as well as 20 overseas bases.

It estimates there is a 9,000 shortage of foster carers in this country, and is trying to attract more people with the patience, understanding and determination to look after children. Anyone interested in fostering should visit www.coreassetsfostering.com, phone 0800 023 4561 or join Core Assets on Facebook.

Cyclist with no helmet died following collision with car

by Louise Jew

A CYCLIST was riding fast at night - without a helmet or lights and wearing dark clothes - when he collided with a car, causing severe head injuries and leading to his death, an inquest heard.

The motorist whose vehicle collided with 24-year-old Lee Stead broke down as she described the tragic accident, saying she had no chance of avoiding hitting him.

Lee's parents, Neil and Debra, with whom he lived in Park Crescent, Stourport, faced the agonising decision of letting doctors turn off the life support system of their only son three days after the accident, which happened in Vernon Road, at the junction with Tan Lane, Stourport.

Teaching assistant Samantha Roberts told the Stourport inquest she was driving back from a 60th birthday at Stourport Cricket Club, with her 10-year-old daughter also in her car, and there were vehicles parked on either side of Vernon Road at about 10.20pm on May 11.

Mrs Roberts said: "In the corner of my eye I saw this figure in black. I slammed on the brakes. There was a Transit van on the right and cars parked on the left and I had nowhere to go.

"He was riding very, very fast and before I knew it he hit the bumper, bonnet and windscreen and landed on the pavement."

Mrs Roberts' husband Lloyd, who was following behind and was qualified in first aid, began trying to save Lee's life. She sobbed as she said: "I was screaming 'Oh my God, oh my God' and my daughter had got out of the car - and Lloyd screamed at us to get back in the car."



Head injuries - Lee Stead

She estimated she was travelling at 25mph and police vehicle examiner Michael Saunders confirmed her Renault Scenic could not have been going faster than 30mph and had no faults.

Mrs Roberts said a breath test at the scene had shown a 'zero' alcohol reading.

Mr Stead underwent surgery at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital but consultant in critical care Dr Laura Tasker said the injuries to his brain were 'unsurvivable' and he died at 7.55am on May 14.

Worcestershire Senior Coroner Geraint Williams concluded that it was an accidental death. He said: "This was simply an accident with appallingly tragic consequences."

Council fun for all the family on way



Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch, in the Dudley Council House ante chamber ready to welcome visitors

FUN for the whole family is being promised when Dudley Council uncovers some of its hidden treasures during a Heritage Open Day.

Children will be able to take part in a Mayoral Trail and enjoy quizzes and colouring activities on September 14 when the council hosts the event.

Visitors will have the opportunity to find out more about the Council House and take a peek behind the scenes at rooms including the main council chamber and the Mayor's Parlour. The national day is organised by English

by Heather Large

Heritage and as part of the event, Dudley Council has organised fun-filled events for the family.

The Council House on Priory Road, Dudley, will be open from 11am to 3pm. There will be guided tours of the council chamber, including a talk about how the council works and the insignia at 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm and 2.30pm when people can also see the mayoral badge, chain and mace.

There will also be photographs of Dudley town centre over the years on display and visitors can also join the Deputy Mayor and consort for tea in the Mayor's Parlour. There will also be performances from the Black Country Ukulele Players.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch said: "While the exhibitions and tours are fascinating and interesting for adults we'll also be putting plenty on for the children to enjoy. For details on the open day go to www.discoverdudley.org.uk and select 'events'."

NEWS

in brief

20,000 cigarettes netted by officers

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In total 20,378 smuggled cigarettes valued at £7,000, 50 packets of counterfeit rolling tobacco and 173 bottles of illegal booze worth £2,000, which had not had the duty paid on them, have been confiscated since July 2012.

Officers carried out 240 covert test purchases at shops to see if owners were selling to underage drinkers and smokers.

Artists are urged to join in project

A COUNCILLOR from Cradley Heath is calling on budding artists to get involved with a new arts project in the area.

Councillor John Tipper is working with artist Fran Wilde on the Creative Cradley Heath project to combine the work of artists, writers and musicians.

The group has already won the support of various art groups including the Oaks Project in Cradley that provides art services to adults with learning disabilities. Email john.tipper@sandwell.gov.uk for details.

Jobseeker claims fall backed by MP

A BLACK Country MP has welcomed new statistics that show the number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance has fallen.

The new figures show a fall of 2,600 people now claiming the in the West Midlands, Dudley South MP Chris Kelly said: "It's great news that the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance is falling in the West Midlands. There is always more to do but these figures are encouraging."

Service desk for credit union help

TO MARK the 20th anniversary of Dudley's Castle & Crystal Credit Union a new service desk will begin operating in Stourbridge.

The council-backed credit union is creating a contact point at Stourbridge Library from September 17. The service desk will be open from 10.30am to 2.30pm each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

AS I write this, there is a song swirling round at the back of my mind. Don't know who sang it, but it just won't leave my head.

Something about 'the marriage vow being very sacred'. Yes it's coming back now, something along the lines of "Come on, come on, let's stick together. You know we made a vow, not to leave one another, never."

Whose song was that? Dunno, it's on the tip of my tongue.

Meanwhile, in other news singer Brian Ferry, aged 67, has just split from his second wife, Amanda Sheppard, 30, having got married last year.

Now, who sang that song again?

WOULDN'T you have loved to be on duty at the police station in Stockholm when a man called in to report that he was intimidated by 'a group of drunk elk' who were in his home.

Now I'm sure the police in Amsterdam get calls like that all the time. Indeed there are probably certain parts of Wolverhampton where the natives are convinced they are in imminent danger from a herd of marauding wildebeest after a few too many herbal cigarettes.

But in Sweden? What's more, it seems, this really did happen. The man was apparently unable to enter his residence because he was being stared down by a rowdy bunch of elk that had got inebriated on fermented apples that had fallen from a nearby tree.

Police spokesman Albin Naverberg said the man had no option but to call the authorities as the animals posed a big threat.

"They can be really dangerous, they become fearless," Mr Naverberg told a local newspaper.

A line of defence which will no doubt come in handy if any Newcastle United fans find themselves in conflict with a police horse when they visit these parts in a couple of weeks.

DON'T you just love it when politicians try to show how they are down with the kids and in tune with the modern age?

First we have Nick Clegg, saying that two weeks' paternity leave for new fathers is 'an Edwardian relic', and has also been a considerable inconvenience to himself.

Of course it is. You will no doubt have heard about all those Edwardian miners coughing their lungs out beneath the ground, or the men working in the searing heat of the foundries and chainshops constantly saying "What we would really like is an extra four weeks' paid paternity leave."

Then we have Conservative MP Claire Perry saying that teachers need to get into the digital age and start teaching youngsters about porn on the internet.

I think she is concerned about the harmful effects porn has on teenagers, rather than a shortage of IT skills in accessing it, but it still seems remarkably naive.



A snowy scene at the Black Country Living Museum during filming



Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry - presenters of the highly popular cookery show

Museum's magical muffin past on show

The muffin man is not purely the stuff of fairy tales as The Black Country Living Museum proved when it was featured in the Great British Bake Off series. **DEBORAH HARDIMAN** reports

THE Black Country Living Museum was among the stars of the show when the heritage attraction played a part in the TV series the Great British Bake Off.

A film crew visited the museum earlier this year to film traditional muffin making techniques, with the footage used as a video feature during the latest episode of the contest.

Popular

Museum staff who appeared in the clip, screened last Tuesday, included curator of domestic and cultural life Clare Weston, who explained the historical side of the muffin alongside Rosalyn Crone, from the Open University.

Popular Mrs Weston, aged 39, who has worked for the attraction for two years, said: "They asked me to stand on the bridge and talk about how the muffin became popular in Georgian times from the late 18th century into the 19th century."

"It was very cold as we'd had heavy snowfall just the weekend before the film crew came."

"It took an hour to film my bit, but it's



Dave Harrison rings the bell to promote his wares as the Muffin Man

a very nice part of my job. Muffins were made with quite a cheap recipe and were popular with the labourers, and eventually became popular with the upper classes as a tasty afternoon snack."

Museum demonstrator Deryck

Noakes, who knows how to bake, was filmed showing how muffins would have been made in the Black Country using a recipe of yeast, flour, salt, and butter.

Mrs Weston explained the British muffin is different from the American

adaptation which is in effect a cake, such as the blueberry muffin.

"It's created using a yeast-based dough. It is served warm with butter. But it's not very easy to bake. You have to get it just right with the heat hitting it evenly."

"I think some of the contestants were having real problems in that section of the show and ended up with muffins with soggy centres."

"We showed how to bake it using a traditional griddle with a hoop handle which was hung over a coal fire range so that the heat from the fire would heat it from the bottom to the top."

"On the programme they used a Welsh bakestone which is available nowadays and sits over the hob," she added.

Dave Harrison, from Tipton and in his 60s, is a learning assistant at the museum and takes groups of school children round the site.

He was filmed carrying out muffin man duties.

Footage

Mr Harrison said: "They were asking for volunteers to take part in the filming. I put my name forward to help. I had to dress up in a muffin man outfit, carry muffins around and ring the bell."

"Like most of these things it takes several hours of footage and only two minutes of me made it on air."

"But it was amazing. While the show was on I got a text from someone I used to work with years ago who said, 'you're the muffin man, fame at last'."

"I was watching it at home. It's great publicity for the museum which looked great on the screen. It just underlines that it's a fabulous site for those types of heritage TV programmes."

Mr Harrison, a former journalist who was born in Tipton, has been working at the museum for four years.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

TWO top gardeners left the opposition in tears at the West Midlands heaviest onion competition - but the winning vegetables did not touch the magic five-pound mark. Winner John Sifford of Halesowen said poor weather meant his winning onion was five ounces short.

AUSTRALIAN newlyweds Joe and Josie Willis flew 12,000 miles to celebrate their honeymoon - in Coseley. And the couple were given a typical Black Country welcome by Joe's aunt who made them a cuppa.

MEMBERS of the Sealed Knot charity society caused a stir in Staffordshire when they re-enacted the Battle of Hopton Heath. Roundheads and Royalists clashed on playing fields at Etching Hill High School during a friendly representation of the 1643 English Civil War battle.

1993...

A BABY born in Netherton was given a pampered start to life by no fewer than nine sets of grandparents and great-grandparents. Samantha Humphries was showered with affection as family members from across the generations gathered to celebrate.

STAFF at Wolverhampton Grammar School started a new scheme issuing "boredom warnings" to students before dull lessons. The idea was hatched by headteacher Bernard Trafford in an effort to keep pupils tuned in during tedious subjects.

LADY Godiva rode through the streets of Droitwich to protest at the planned closure of a hospital used by rheumatism sufferers. Kingswinford beauty queen Justine Mather wore a white swimsuit and long wig for her role as she headed a march organised by campaigners fighting to save Highfield Hospital.

2003...

PLANS for an £80 million shopping, leisure, office and housing development in Wolverhampton were axed after a planning inquiry. Council chiefs said the proposals for the Springfield Brewery site would hit existing shopping centres in the area.

A QUICK-THINKING aunt used first aid skills she picked up on a course 20 years ago to save a tot who was choking on a penny. Lorraine Garratt from Tipton unblocked 19-month-old Sheridan Wilkes' airways after the toddler swallowed the coin which became lodged in her throat.

A NEW skateboarding park officially opened in the centre of Wolverhampton. The facility was created within the Penn Road island after youngsters were driven away from the civic centre piazza following complaints from members of the public.



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Source: Newspaper Society

LETTERS

Trawling through local history

RECENTLY on one of my road journeys through Wolverhampton, a town (now city) I have known and seen change since 1956 – I started to think of some of the historical articles that have been produced in the Express & Star, and sister paper Stourbridge Chronicle regarding architecture.

Many of the building changes are now glass and concrete of styles that can be found all over the world. Buildings that will not be around in 40, 50 or so years. The old London Midland was a favourite along with the GWR when train spotting. However with previous changes and the prospec-

tive new station we wait and see. Up and down the country old industrial premises are still being demolished for identical garage style work units – which brings me to the old Sunbeam Factory which has been empty for many years.

Some while ago I think the question was asked what could Wolverhampton do to bring in tourists, especially since our once world famous football team/club will not be bringing so many visitors to the city.

Wolverhampton in its past has also been famous for producing modes of transport – trains, cars, lorries, planes

and motorbikes (even boats for all I know) so why not make the old factory into a transport museum?

You recently ran an article on the number of old style telephone kiosks that are to be taken out of service. A year ago I contacted BT to see if they would donate one to a small preserved railway as they already had hundreds stockpiled that have been taken out of service. Their answer, £1,500 to purchase, and £600 for them to transfer on health and safety grounds. What will they do with them all? China, India?

WARWICK B DAVIS,
Farmercroft Road, Stourbridge.

We should box clever for energy generation

BRITAIN has no need for up to 10 new French-built nuclear power stations that, when we finally leave the EU, will leave our energy bills at the mercy of the French and leave an enormous toxic waste problem for the next generation.

The only reason we cannot continue to use our modern efficient coal generators is due to EU energy directives. But there is a free unlimited supply of clean fuel that can keep our generators turning: it's called Chinese cardboard boxes.

Practically everything we buy, from toasters, TVs, clothing, even food, now all comes from China in cardboard boxes and no matter how many we burn today more container ships full of boxes will arrive tomorrow. All we have to do is convert all power stations to burn the lovely free Chinese cardboard boxes.

GORDON FANTHOM,
Hinksford Gardens,
Swindon.

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle
Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Fracking protesters missed power cuts

BACK in the 70s I remember the TV going off every evening before 10.30 to save power. I also remember all the power cuts due to electricity worker and miner strikes so I will remember what it is like to be without our major fuels! Sitting in the dark with no heating and only candles for light!

Recently I have seen many scenes on TV of demonstrations against fracking or attempts to remove oil and gas from deep below parts of British landscapes. It seems to me that many of these protesters are only teenagers themselves and do not remember what it is like to be without fuel – nor have they had to work to pay keep a family and pay a grossly exaggerated fuel bill caused by fuel imported from other countries!

Meanwhile MPs do not have this problem either, protesting at coal fired and nuclear fired power stations, but do not want wind turbines to spoil the land near them, but are quite happy when they get home to turn on the TV, the kettle and the heating and not worry where the power came from as long as it's not here and they can get some publicity and their faces on TV!

HELENA CAMWELL, Birch Crescent, Tividale.

Volunteers sought to help out hospices

HOSPICES in the UK cost millions of pounds to run each year. These institutions provide specialised and tailored care to patients, without asking for a single penny in return.

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We are currently looking for individuals to join our community fundraising team. Volunteers from every walk of life are welcome. Call 01922 422 508, email: walsallfun@acorns.org.uk or visit www.acorns.org.uk/volunteering
SALLY INSLEY,
Community Fundraising Manager,
Acorns in the Black Country.

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MEMORY LANE



Iron workers in Bilston in the late 19th Century. Production locally peaked at 752,000 tons in 1859



This mine in Princes End closed in 1919 because of flooding



The Hingley's anchor for the Titanic, which was made in Netherton



The Red House Cone in Wordsley, where clay was dug up

Fundamental elements that laid industrial foundations

COAL. Iron ore. Limestone. Fire clay. Casting sand. The five vital minerals beneath the Black Country that were essential to its rapid rise as one of the greatest manufacturing regions the world has ever seen.

Coal it was that burned Britain into industrial supremacy in the 19th Century. Burning in furnaces, factories, locomotives, steam ships and gasworks, it transformed the world, and in that remarkable change the thick coal of South Staffordshire was indispensable as a source of British power.

The Ten Yard Seam, as it was also called, was mined from at least the later 13th Century, when it could be dug out from the surface or close to it. Just 21 miles long at its furthest

by **Carl Chinn**

extent and generally between six and seven miles in breadth.

By the early years of the 19th Century it was reckoned that between 500,000 and one million tons of local coal were burned annually in the works and furnaces of the Black Country. Within a few years, the Ten Yard Seam was second only to the vast Northern Coalfield in national importance.

Eventually, small mines became uncompetitive and others were flooded by water. Many closed. Deeper collieries were sunk on the edges of the coalfield at Hamstead, Sandwell Valley and Baggeridge but they could not halt the swift fall of the Black Country from its pinnacle as a coal-producing region.

Production of iron locally peaked at 752,000 tons in 1859. This was an

amazing 22 per cent of British production and it was blasted from 190 furnaces. Such a huge amount of iron needed to be extracted from an even greater amount of iron ore; in 1866 it was reported that almost two million tons of iron ore was needed for the Black Country furnaces. Of this, more than half was mined locally.

However, the subsequent exhaustion of local supplies of both iron ore and coal led to a rapid decline in the number of furnaces to just 40 by 1880. Fortunately new jobs were created through the emergence of steel making in both Bilston and Brierley Hill – something which carried on strongly until the later 20th Century. The mining of limestone, too, was in marked decline. Often overlooked in its importance, limestone was highly significant.

The limestone under the Wrens

Nest and Castle Hill in Dudley was worked from at least the 1200s. By the 1860s these opencast mines were mostly worked out, after which the stone was fetched out via shafts sunk into the hill – as can be seen in the caverns today. It was then burned with coal in kilns, such as those still obvious at the Black Country Living Museum.

Most of the lime from Dudley was used as a flux in the smelting of iron to remove phosphorus, sulphur, and silica and other impurities. This led to the forming of the slag above the pure liquid iron. Lime was also important in the refining of steel and in the making of glass.

Much of the clay in the Black Country was particularly suitable for this purpose, allowing blast furnaces and glass kilns to withstand the fierce temperatures so necessary in the making of glass and the

smelting of iron. This clay was mined from local pits and was brought to the surface in slab form and 'weathered'. It was dug up mostly from Brierley Hill, Amblecote and Kingswinford.

Each town seem to be associated with some specialist trade that thrust its name onto the world stage. Netherton with its anchors. Cradley and Cradley Heath with their chains, plus Stourbridge and Brierley Hill with their glass.

And just as these products reached across the world so too did the names of the great concerns of the Black Country: Rubery Owen and Stewart and Lloyd's; Accles and Pollock's and Tangye's; Horsley Bridge and Chance's; the Bean and Kenrick's; Izon's and the Patent Shaft and Axeltree; John Thompson and Thomas Dudley Ltd.

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Dudley's Male Voice Choir Welcomes Top Soprano Laura Wright

One of Dudley's top choirs - the 70-strong Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir is presenting its annual Autumn Concert in Dudley Town Hall on Saturday 21st September.

The well respected choir has developed a reputation for providing entertaining programmes consisting of a wide range of music, and in recent years has attracted many top rated entertainers to appear on stage with them.

This year's Autumn Concert is no exception, when the choir is delighted to welcome as its special guest artist the sensational soprano Laura Wright.

With over a million album sales under her belt and still only 23 years old, Laura Wright has been one of the biggest selling classical artists this decade, having reached Number One in the Classical Chart with her album 'The Last Rose', and her second album 'Glorious' will leave even the most faint-hearted Brit brimming with patriotic pride.

Last year she completed a UK tour with tenor Alfie Boe, the Queen's Jubilee tour with Russell Watson and she opened the iTunes Festival for Andrea Bocelli.

In 2012 Laura performed more times for HM The Queen than any other artist, and enjoyed performing for the Queen at the Coronation Concerts in the gardens of Buckingham Palace in July 2013.

Laura has appeared and sung at many top class sporting events at venues including the Olympic Stadium, The Edgbaston Priory Club, Wembley Stadium and Twickenham, and has sung at the QBE International rugby matches and 6 Nations at Twickenham.



Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir courtesy of Ralph Mason Photography

In 2012, the RFU announced Laura as their first ever official anthem singer, supporting the England Rugby team at their international and 6 Nations rugby matches, appearing something of a lucky charm as no matches have been lost yet when she's sung!

She was nominated for a Classical Brit Award in 2012 and received the PPL Classical Award at the Nordoff Robbins 02 Silver Clef Awards 2012. Laura is proud to be an Ambassador of Arthritis Research UK, having battled her own debilitating condition at a very young age.

The compare at this concert will be local BBC presenter, Michael Collie.

More details about Laura Wright are available on her website - www.laura-wright.co.uk, and details of the concert can be found on the choir's website - www.gsmvc.org.uk

Tickets for the concert are available at £19 and £17 through the choir's Ticket Hotline 01384 838863, or online via www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment

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NEWS

Group puts its finishing touches to church plan

THE FINISHING touches are being put to plans for campaigners to take over a landmark church.

It would also see an agreement drawn up to help sacred treasures return to the building in the future.

St John's Church Preservation Group in Kates Hill, Dudley, is finalising arrangements to take over the church so members can carry out repairs.

They are currently in discussions with church commissioners about their proposals and hope to receive the go-ahead later this year.

Members want to keep the 173-year-old church building, which is described as 'a virtually intact Victorian church' as unaltered as possible but will restore some of the old features such as the lychgate.

They hope to eventually reinstall some of the historical items such as the windows, plaques, altar and worship artefacts, which were taken out of the church when it closed in 2002. The items are currently in the custodianship of the St John's congregation, which now meets elsewhere. But

by Heather Large

the preservation group hopes to bring them back to the church as and when they become available in future years.

Chairman Deb Brownlee said: "The future of historic artefacts associated with the historic church building is a very sensitive issue."

As a preservation group seeking to restore the church and lychgate historically intact, naturally we want to refit as many original items as possible and we have asked that a tracking process be put in place so that we can seek the return of items as they come available over the longer term."

The group is asking for pledges of funding from businesses, community groups and individuals. Anyone interested can email savestjohn church@hotmail.co.uk or by calling 07871 195042.

Things otter up at zoo with carrot fun



One of the otters plays with a ball-shaped piece of carrot

JUGGLING otters at Dudley Zoo are causing quite a stir with their antics.

The playful creatures have been keeping visitors entertained by juggling with pebbles or ball-shaped pieces of carrot as they show off their dexterity. And their cute displays frequently turn up on various internet video sites.

The 13 Asiatic short-clawed otters are not trained to put on an act - but the juggling is good practice for handling slippery customers, in the shape of the fish they like to eat.

Their tiny claws are smaller than those of other otters and enhance their manual dexterity in dealing with their prey. Zoo spokesman Jill Hitchman said: "The otters lie on their backs when they are in a juggling mood and pick up little pebbles, which they put on their tummies and roll around."

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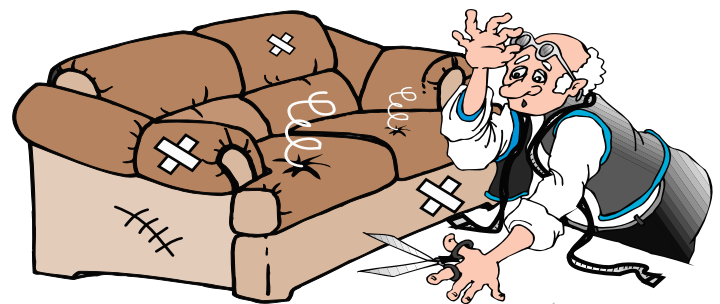


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NEWS

Help little Luis live life to the full, say parents



Gemma Hickman with son Luis, who has severe learning difficulties and is unable to walk unaided, and father Zaq

A MOTHER has issued a rallying call for supporters to help with a fundraising event in honour of her young son who has a rare medical condition.

Gemma Hickman is appealing for help from businesses for the event in aid of her eight-year-old son Luis who has a genetic condition called chromosome 1p36 deletion.

He has severe learning difficulties and is unable to walk unaided or talk, although he does communicate through Makaton, a language programme which uses signs and symbols. The

mother of three from Stourbridge is hoping to raise cash for specialist equipment such as a tablet computer to help him communicate and a trike to aid his mobility. She said: "He is a very loving and sociable little boy who wants to access everything around him. Unfortunately because of his disabilities this is not always possible."

"Luis needs the assistance of technology and equipment and I have to say the NHS are great and have provided Luis with lots of vital equipment he needs. As you can imagine there are lots of things that simply cannot be funded by the NHS as there is just not

enough money in the pot. Specialist equipment is so expensive and can sometimes be 10 times the amount you would pay."

The fundraising event will take place at David Lloyd Leisure in Brierley Hill on October 6. Volunteers are being urged to come forward to buy and sell tickets, and tombola and raffle items are being sought. She is also appealing for businesses to help with balloons and decorations and entertainment for children. Anyone who is able to help can contact her by email at gbutton@hotmail.co.uk or by calling 07568137147.

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NEWS

Fresh start for couple after market is closed

by Heather Large

TWO fruit and veg sellers have branched out to open their own shop following the closure of Brierley Hill's Concord Market.

Jeremy Thorpe and his wife Caireen have opened traditional farm shop Fresh Harvest in the town's Mill Street.

The couple had been running a business at the former indoor market for three and a half years.

But after market bosses announced in June that the centre was going to shut due to dwindling trade, they decided to set up on their own.

They have moved into a former bakery three weeks ago and said, so far, business was going well.

Mr Thorpe, aged 47, said: "It was a shock how quickly the market closed but it's been good for us to open our own shop."

Traditional

"We had a good customer base at the market so hopefully we can continue to have that in our new premises."

"It's a traditional farm shop with a large kitchen table in the middle of the shop and lots of wicker baskets."

"We try to source as much local produce as possible to support the local farmers and we also work with the seasons."

The couple are following in the footsteps of Mandy Merrick who moved her tea room business to Maple Row, off Mill Street. It had been a popular feature of the Concord Market in Brierley Hill for more than 20 years.

But Mrs Merrick decided the time was right to move Polly's Tea Room into a shop.

She took over the business four years ago after leaving a job in the



Owner Jeremy Thorpe, from Pedmore, at the new shop in Brierley Hill

licensing department at Dudley Council. Her business, which employs three, also has a kitchen at Myles Court, which provides food to 91 resident flats.

Owner of Concord Market Shane Birch-Bastock blamed the closure of the market on a drop in trade and an

exit of stallholders. Four stallholders handed their notice in just weeks before he announced it would shut.

Before it closed, he vowed to help the remaining stallholders move to other locations in the borough.

Mr Birch-Bastock also runs the market in Sedgley.

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Judge praises prolific thief after he owns up to more than 100 offences

A PROLIFIC thief who confessed to more than 100 offences has been jailed – but could be free in less than a year and has been praised by a judge for his honesty.

Dale Mowat's £32,000 crimewave only ended after he knocked at the door of a woman in Stourbridge Road, Lye, and asked her to order him a takeaway. She refused the bizarre request and moments later bravely grabbed hold of the 25-year-old after spotting him breaking in to

by John Scott

a neighbour's car, prosecutor Edward Soulsby told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The unnamed woman grabbed hold of his legs and refused to let go despite the drug addict threatening to stab her with a syringe.

Mowat was on bail at the time having been arrested three days earlier after being caught trying to steal from a hut at the Stourbridge Children's and Family Centre in Ford Road on June 3.

The serial criminal with 35 previous convictions for 58 offences then decided to take police on a drive round the area, pointing out the scene of the other unsolved crimes he had committed over two years, involving a total of £32,581 worth of valuables, the court heard.

Mr Paul Hiatt, defending, explained: "He sold all the property he stole and spent the money on drink and drugs. He wants to wipe the slate clean. On his release he intends to move out of the area and become a drugs counsellor."

Former sous chef Mowat, from Ridge

Road, Stourbridge, who lost several fingers in an industrial accident in March 2011, admitted burglary, seven thefts and two attempted thefts from vehicles and asked for 94 other offences to be taken into consideration.

He was jailed for a total of 22 months, but is likely to only serve half of that time actually behind bars.

Recorder Mark Wall QC told him during yesterday's hearing: "Police did not know you were responsible for many of the crimes you subsequently admitted. They may never have been solved without your honesty."

Village's new rotary club president starts

THE new president of Kinver Rotary Club has been appointed. Nick Geoghegan, who won the Kinver Civic Society's award for services to the community through his dedication to brightening up the High Street with floral decorations, has taken up the position.

He has previous worked in accountancy, engineering and manufacturing and now works as an employer adviser with the DWE. Mr Geoghegan joined the Rotary Club in 2008 and has served as treasurer and vice-president.

Fellow club member Mike Deathridge said: "Nick, who is a former vice chairman of the village's Allotment Association, can be seen regularly on the High Street with his wife watering floral hanging baskets and generally tidying the frontages in support of the drive for Best Kept Village in which the Rotary Club has been a major supporter."



Mr Geoghegan

Firefighting fun at nursery



Nursery nurse Rosie Lowe picks up little firefighter Amber Witcombe at Sandhill Day Nursery in Wombourne held an emergency services day in order to raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital. Firefighters dropped in to talk to the children about their work and how to deal with an emergency. The event took place at Sandhill Day Nursery in Maypole Street. More than 35 children and 10 staff turned up in emergency services fancy dress and took part in activities such as baking cakes, painting various pictures and building a cardboard fire engine.

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NEWS

£2.6m restoration of park nears completion

WORKS to complete a £2.6 million revamp of an historic Dudley park, which dates back almost 1,000 years, will be officially unveiled next month.

A long-awaited restoration project for Priory Park is drawing to a close after officials secured the remaining grants needed to complete the scheme. The park is getting £2.6 million of investment following the bid to Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund under the Parks for People programme. Around £1.8 million has come from the lottery schemes.

Dudley Council and other contributors have put £800,000 into the project. The 19-acre park opened in 1932 and is home to the remains of the 900-year old Dudley Priory which was established after the Norman Conquest of 1066.

Fantastic

Campaigners have long fought for the revamp of the park and demanded the Dudley Council help push for grants to seek improvements.

Dudley Council and the Friends of Priory Park and Green will show VIPs around the newly improved park at a special launch event on September 20.

The council's environment and culture chief, Councillor Tracy Wood, today said: "It is fantastic to see all the aspects of this project coming together to give this beautiful and historical park the improvements it deserves."

"I'm sure our residents and park visitors will be delighted to see how much Priory Park has been reinvigorated over the last three years."

The work includes the redevelopment of the park pavilion which has been extended.

It will now provide public toilets and act as a base for educational activities



Christine Jenkins, Barbara Thomas, Jim Jenkins and Denise Woolvin at the

and community facilities. New lighting has also been installed around the Priory ruins.

An avenue of trees, repairs to path surfaces, new signage, artwork and sculptures and improvements to drainage also feature. The cash has also enabled the council to employ two park rangers. The Heritage Lottery Fund's West Midlands regional chief, Rayahn King, added: "Parks are a vital green lung in our towns and cities. We're delighted that Priory Park is nearing completion."

Meanwhile, volunteers welcomed families to a community fun day at

Dudley's landmark Priory Park as they get ready to celebrate the completion of the long-awaited revamp.

Scores of people attended the event organised by the Friends of Priory Park group. There were an array of stalls as well as entertainment for youngsters including a bouncy castle, climbing wall, a harness trampoline and balloon-making.

Members of the Priory Park Allstars organised sports activities for visitors and there were raffles and a tombola, which was raising money for a piece of artwork to be installed in the rose garden.



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NEWS

Whopper tomato crop is no tall story

A GARDENER is celebrating his green-fingered skills after his latest crop of tomato plants grew to more than 7ft tall.

Roy Wood, of Coseley, said he had been left stunned at the rate of their growth – with the plants so large they are now poking out of the windows of his greenhouse.

The 75-year-old retired engineer has been a keen gardener since he was a boy.

But Mr Wood said his latest batch of tomato plants was the largest yet – and revealed they are still continuing to grow.

Mr Wood said the seeds he used had come from tomatoes on his own dinner plate.

"I was eating the tomatoes and could see they were very high quality," he said.

"I planted them in my greenhouse and the results have been absolutely amazing."



Roy Wood, of Coseley, who is celebrating the success of his tomato plants

Shop developer hits out at planning officers' demands

A DEVELOPER wanting to open a home furnishing store out of a derelict pub in the Black Country has hit out at council planning officers over 'impossible' demands for his proposal.

Jon Thompson plans to spend £200,000 refitting the fire-wrecked former Round Oak pub in Dudley Road, Brierley Hill, before operating his family business shop inside.

The store would employ up to 10 people at launch and would regenerate a building last used as a pub more than 20 years ago. But Mr Thompson claims his planning application, submitted in May, has been held back by continuous demands from planning officers.



Jon Thompson, left, and Allan Cooper at the former Round Oak pub

An electric car charging port, parking for motorbikes and showering and changing facilities are among the requests for the shop from Dudley Council. Mr Thompson said: "I want to

bring back into use a terrible-looking building and boost business to this area of town – yet I am being treated like a Tesco Express. I don't see why so many problems are being found."

Mr Thompson submitted the planning application on May 8 and hoped to get approval in July. Now he has been told a decision is imminent. Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "All planning applications have to go through the normal legal process before being determined, and it is important to get this detail from the outset."

"We work closely with people to help them make sure all policy requirements are met before a decision is made. We are continuing to work with the applicant to ensure all matters are resolved as quickly as possible."

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NEWS

Rags are riches for pageant win



Beauty pageant winner Alexia Bates, aged 12, wearing the dress bought from the Birmingham rag market

Alexia in the pink as worldbeater

A SCHOOLGIRL from Dudley has been crowned the winner of a glitzy worldwide beauty pageant in America – wearing a £20 dress bought from a rag market.

Alexia Bates, aged 12, beat more than 30 finalists to add the Perfect Pageants title to her 16 victories in the UK. Remarkably, Alexia has won every single competition she entered since her first pageant 18 months ago.

She travelled to Orlando in Florida on August 3 with her mum April Bates, 39, after winning the European leg of the contest earlier this year. And while

by Alex Ross

most girls wore outfits their parents had splashed out hundreds of pounds on, Alexia proudly sported a pink princess dress purchased from an indoor market in Birmingham and decorated with jewels bought off eBay. And after impressing the judges the rags-to-riches youngster was crowned the world's perfect pre-teen winning a trophy and £1,282.

Mother April, who lives with Alexia as well as her other daughter Raven, 17, and twin sons Jonah and Noah, five, said: "I'm very proud of her. She has only been competing for the last 18 months. Everyone thinks it is all glam-

orous and expensive but it is what you make it. I'm not one who splashes out or wastes money. When it comes to Lexi's outfits, a lot of them are either bought off eBay or we create an outfit of our own."

The pageants have even inspired Alexia to want to become a fashion designer when she grows up and April believes they have improved her confidence. The teaching assistant said she disagrees with the negative publicity normally associated with the competitions. She added: "I think a lot of criticism comes from people who are only basing it from shows they see with the little girls. Lexi does wear make-up but it is age appropriate."

Attraction ideal for period drama crews

by Mark Andrews

AFTER years of being overlooked or derided by television executives, the Black Country is finally being taken seriously as a drama setting.

Peaky Blinders, set in Birmingham's criminal underworld during 1919, will become the latest of several period dramas filmed at the Black Country Living Museum when it reaches our screens next Thursday.

And unlike the days of Crossroads or Auf Wiedersehen Pet, when the only references to the West Midlands came in the form of hammy accents and the odd place name crowbarred into the dialogue, the new series starring Batman actor Cillian Murphy will feature several identifiable locations.

Mystery

Much of the filming for Peaky Blinders, named after a mob of sharply dressed gangsters who conceal razor blades in the peak of their tweed caps, took place at the museum.

It follows on from Dancing on the Edge, a jazz-age murder mystery, and Wpc 56, a police series set in the 1950s, which were also filmed at the site in Dudley.

Alan Apperley, a media expert at Wolverhampton University, is not surprised the area is becoming increasingly popular as a setting for period drama, saying that locations such as the Black Country Living Museum are perfect for such productions. "It's like a ready-made film set," he says. "There are lots of stately homes around, but these working-class period settings are becoming increas-



The new BBC period drama Peaky Blinders, starring Cillian Murphy, left, has been filmed at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley

ingly scarce, as they have all been lost to redevelopment."

The Severn Valley Railway was also used for filming scenes of Dancing on the Edge, and Wpc 56 featured scenes which were shot at Himley Hall, and having such attractions close together is another important factor in choosing film locations.

Black Country Living Museum director Clare Byers says talks are already taking place about the prospect of a second series of Wpc 56 being made at the museum, and she believes the film crews will become an increasingly common presence at the site.

"The Black Country Living Museum

is a producer's dream, with its array of Victorian buildings, old artefacts and traffic-free environment," she says.

Mike Hobson, the producer of Wpc 56, agrees, saying that the beauty of the West Midlands is that there are so many suitable locations within easy reach of one another.

"It's like a Hollywood backdrop, there are a wealth of locations suitable for filming," he says.

"The Black Country Museum was ideal, it worked beautifully well with that brilliant street of shops, with the old motorcycle shop fitting in with the period."

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NEWS

Delight after recycling waste scheme is binned

CAMPAIGNERS have been celebrating after a controversial proposal to build a waste recycling plant in the Black Country was refused – but they admitted their battle may not be over yet as the company behind the scheme considers an appeal.

More than 20 people arrived ahead of Dudley Council's development control meeting to voice their protest against the scheme planned for Brierley Hill by Clean Power Properties at the Council House in Priory Road last night.

More than 350 people had signed a petition against the plan. Ward councillors also opposed the application as well as Dudley South MP Chris Kelly. Inside the meeting held last Tuesday, Tim Lee, aged 63, of Seagers Lane, told councillors on the committee the plant would bring traffic and odour misery to residents, already blighted by problems of waste storage at Refused Derived Fuel Ltd in Moor Street.

He said: "Now the Brierley Hill area is in danger of becoming the waste dump of the West Midlands. Families won't want to move to the area, nor will new businesses want to start up here."

As the vote was announced, residents in the public gallery of the council chamber cheered, but many afterwards feared an appeal by the company.

Mr Lee said: "I worry this will change nothing for Clean Power Properties – the company has shown little consideration to local residents so far, by putting the plant forward in the first place and then sticking with the application despite objections."

Justine Chamberlain-Page, 42, of Church Street, said: "It's good news today, we only hope that is the end of it



Councillors Zafar Islam and Rachel Harris, and spokesman Tim Lee with residents protesting about the proposed recycling plant in Brierley Hill

now, but there is no guarantee. "I'm pleased the councillors have listened to our concerns and taken the right action. It is a waiting game now."

Reverend Steve Martin, vicar at St Michael's Anglican Church in Brierley Hill, said: "Clean Power need to realise this is a community which does not wish for their waste recycling plant. I hope this sends the message loud and clear."

Disappointed

Clean Power said they would now explore their next steps. Spokesman Dominic O'Donnell said: "We are understandably very disappointed in the Development Control Committee's decision."

"Clean Power has worked hard throughout the application process to answer all of the questions asked by local residents, councillors and officers about our proposals, including on the

issue of odour. We have detailed how the Environment Agency – who would regulate and monitor the operation of the site – raised no objection to our proposals."

"We would like to thank those within the community who have supported us. We will now explore our next steps."

It took councillors less than an hour to refuse the planning application on the grounds that the facility would disrupt people living nearby with increased traffic and smell.

The decision was made despite the Environment Agency not objecting against the plant in favour of stringent conditions laid down on operations.

Committee chairman Councillor Qadar Zada said: "I can see why a development like this would be beneficial. What I can't see is how it would be beneficial to the people of Brierley Hill."

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An E&S letters page picture of the sundial in 1952

A FORMER grammar school pupil is trying to solve the mystery of a missing sundial which was a well-known landmark in a Black Country town for decades.

David Humphries attended Stourbridge Grammar School, now King Edward VI College, between 1948 and 1954.

The 76-year-old said in 1952 the school had celebrated the 400th

by Lee Watton

anniversary of receiving its charter with staff and pupils raising money to purchase the sundial to mark the occasion.

For many years it stood at the top of Lower High Street, near to the town's historic clock and opposite the Mitre Pub.

And Mr Humphries, who now lives in Sedgley, said a recent trip to Stourbridge had brought back memories of the sundial and he had wondered what had happened to it.

His search has revealed the sundial was still in place until the 1980s when he believes it was removed for the building of the Crown Centre.

Unveiled

But his investigations have so far failed to reveal the eventual fate of the sundial and he is now hoping someone will come forward with information.

"When the sundial was unveiled in 1952 it was a really major occasion with the Mayor attending the ceremony," he said.

"I have a picture of the sundial still in place in the 1960s however it had lost the gnomon, the part which casts the shadow.

"I also have information it remained at the top of High Street until 1981. Indications seem to be it was removed when the Crown Centre was built later in the decade.

"To be honest I very much doubt the dial is still in existence after so many years but it would be absolutely fascinating to know what happened to it."



David Humphries with stories on the sundial

Hat's all for tea party at museum



Charlotte Lodge, at Broadfield Glass House Museum YOUNGSTERS made sure they were not late for the Hatter's Tea Party as they enjoyed a fun-filled day at a Black Country attraction.

Creative youngsters even made their own fancy dress outfits for the event held at Broadfield House Glass Museum, in Kingswinford.

Among those who dressed up for the day was Charlotte Lodge, aged seven, from Wombourne, who sported her own homemade hat. Families laid out picnic blankets to enjoy lunch in the grounds of the glass museum. Dudley Council's culture chief, Councillor Tracy Wood, said: "With crafts, a trail and of course the museum and its garden to explore this is a pleasurable way to spend a summer afternoon."

Broadfield House Glass Museum is open Tuesday to Sunday from midday to 4pm and admission is free. For more details call 01384 812745.

Dog's life in woods with family day out

A DAY of events for dogs and their owners is being held in a Black Country park.

All About Dogs will be at Warley Woods Park in Smethwick on Sunday, between 11am and 4pm.

Organised between the park's trust and the RSPCA, the centrepiece of the day is the family dog show, with categories such as Waggiest Tail and Best Golden Oldie.

There will also be fly-ball demonstrations and the chance to have a go with your dog.

A Doggie Dash competition will run all day and there will be stalls to browse. Registration starts at 10am, and entries to the dog show cost £1 per category.

Firms named as sponsors

BRIERLEY Hill-based chartered accountancy firm Griffiths & Pegg, along with the solicitors Talbots, have been named as sponsors for a fundraising coffee morning being held next month.

They will be supporting the World's Biggest Coffee Morning business networking event in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support at The Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill on Friday, September 27.

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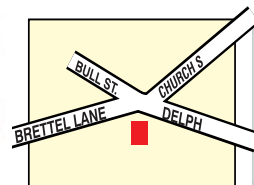
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LYN slim size 10, 5ft 9ins, attractive with GSOH, OHAC, employed, WLTm genuine guy who is also looking to put some fun back into life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407195** ☺

DEBS 37yr old professional, outgoing, bubbly, seeking genuine man for good times in/out and just see where it leads. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407039** ☺

NATASHA is a naughty 22yr old lady seeking no strings discreet fun with older man. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366033**

BLONDE blue eyed 72yr old widow, GSOH, young at heart, seeks honest, caring gent of similar age for holidays, weekends away and happy times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407113** ☺

MEDIUM build female, 66, widow, 5ft 5ins, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407003**

PAULA 38 single mum with OHAC, attractive blue eyes, size 14, seeking well built male with GSOH and honest/reliable disposition, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407029** ☺

WHERE have all the genuine men gone? Sue single female who enjoys nights in/out, music, seeks sincere male to enjoy good times and get close to. Pls ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407025** ☺

SUSAN 34 attractive looking to find that special connection with a nice guy who would enjoy spending good times with me and share new interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406109** ☺

ANITA petite 33yr old tanned, toned sexy size 10 female with very high drive and lots of energy looking for similar man for adult no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406835** ☺

HI I am Linda a lovely petite mature lady looking for nice caring male to 65yrs who also has lots of love to give for hopeful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406715** ☺

GOOD looking professional female, 51, enjoys arts, wine/dining, sightseeing, country walks, seeks special male to enjoy great Summer with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406765**

LINDA bored housewife wanting to spice things up a bit looking for clean well-mannered professional for discreet adult meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406705** ☺

SUE slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving, independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTm willing male to get to know and spend quality times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406693** ☺

NICKY lonely single mum with GSOH, honest and very loving seeking trustworthy, cuddly, tactile male who can make all my dreams come true. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406523** ☺

SARA 32 very attractive single mum, OHAC, professional, looking for similar outgoing single dad 35-55yrs for companionship, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406511** ☺

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135** ☺

SINGLE cuddly female, 5ft 6ins, green eyes, seeks male, 40-50 for fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406015** ☺

WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTm younger gentleman with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177**

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 329319** ☺

NAT easygoing pretty, honest 24yrs, enjoys cosy nights in, romantic walks, holidaying, keeping fit, WLTm fun, loving, energetic male, looks/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406117** ☺

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818** ☺

SINGLE female, 43, seeks kind, considerate male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406449**

PAULINE 36 intelligent easygoing female with GSOH looking for nice guy who wants to get know and connect with me, enjoys meals in/out, music and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406373** ☺

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406341** ☺

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 339373** ☺

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380918** ☺

JANET looking for handsome prince to spoil me in return for lots of good fun and well deserved uncomplicated attention. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405823** ☺

NEW to dating and a little nervous, Susan very attractive 30yr old curvy single mum, looking for fun times with similar outgoing male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405809** ☺

SARAH 24, brunette, brown eyes, attractive, slim, smart, seeks male with GSOH, 30's in Kidderminster area for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406139** ☺

SUSIE, seeks fifty shades of grey with guy any age but must be discreet, call and I will explain why. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 407321**

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115**

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407** ☺

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CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127**

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245**

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325** ☺

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368429** ☺

SHAZ 33 easygoing voluptuous black female with lovely smile and personality to match, loves music, keeping fit and looking good, WLTm appreciative guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819** ☺



62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106** ☺

SUSIE fun loving mum with GSOH seeks gentle considerate to get to know better. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404627** ☺

VOLUPTUOUS big hearted brunette, Maria, 36, loves music, seeks someone special to show her what she's missing. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 346785** ☺

PAT 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405895** ☺

SHELLEY 48, 5ft 5ins, brunette, seeking discreet relationship with male 48-52 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405795**

WOMAN 55yrs old, N/S, size 14, likes animals, nature, reading, TV, quiet life, seeks man 45-55, N/S for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404447** ☺

BLACK female 32yrs, 38dd, very curvy, sensual and looking for discreet fun with no strings or complications, any age, looks or status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405269** ☺

GALE looking for old fashioned man with old fashioned values to sweep me off my feet, enjoy adult fun times and maybe even more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405259** ☺

CHRISTINA 38 very pretty petite trainee nurse looking for N/S male companionship to enjoy meals/drinks out, leading to more maybe. Age/looks and status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405243** ☺

MANDY friendly outgoing arty female who loves wine/dining, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405229** ☺

JANE 46yrs West Midlands, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, looking for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403949**

48YR old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651** ☺

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041**

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949**

CLARE 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTm caring male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047**

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837**

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295**

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297**

MANDY 36, size 10 but busty, looking for discreet relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317** ☺

I am Tracy 39yr old young chatty single female looking for older male to look after me and show me some much needed attention with discretion and no ties. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405293** ☺

REBECCA tall slim elegant long legged romantic, sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405281** ☺

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852**

MARIA petite curvy brunette, into keep fit, running, beauty, looking for nice genuine tall N/S guy with no ties for fun adult companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405099** ☺

SALLY 37 blonde blue eyed bombshell who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405203** ☺

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, average looks, likes reading, meals out, cinema, theatre, quiet pubs, honest, genuine, kind, caring, GSOH, seeks male, 42-58. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308**

KIND loving lady 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391863**

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well-dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923** ☺

BLONDE attractive, educated lady, tall, slim, curvy, 47, seeks tall, professional, 40-52. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 362478**

GENUINE female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327** ☺

YVONNE looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135** ☺

FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169** ☺

BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367021** ☺

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207** ☺

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428** ☺

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367066** ☺

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432** ☺

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409**

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTm tall, fit female with get up and go attitude towards life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375825**

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 304135** ☺

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 327579**

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979**

SINGLE MEN

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MALE 46, enjoys romantic walks, meals out, seeks female biker for rides out and touring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407171**

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, broadminded, seeks bored female for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 372407**

KEVIN 40, stocky, 6ft 2ins, dark hair, likes nights in/out, seeks female, 35-50 for fun and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406773** ☺

MARK 45 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, slim, likes sports, cinema, meals out, seeking loving, caring female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406737** ☺

COLIN 5ft 8ins, dark hair, brown eyes, likes pubs, walks, dvds, holidays, seeks nice lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406677** ☺

MATT nice build, likes cycling, clubs, looking for fit, sexy female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406727** ☺

PROFESSIONAL local businessman, 40 tall, blue eyes, likes sports, music, seeks professional slim lady for romantic meals, evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406717** ☺

ARE you a black princess? 48yr old sporty witty male, 5ft 11ins, likes holidays, cinema, meals out would like to take you out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406551**

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MALE seeking female, 40-55, discretion assured, status unimportant for daytime meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406433** ☺

SHARP dressed man, mature, fun, seeks smart, size 10 lady, any age for friendship and relationship. Hereford. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405323** ☺

58YR old male, likes nights in/out, looking for N/S female, 40-60 for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405975** ☺

JOSEPH 40 tall, GSOH, seeks female, 28-48 for fun and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394103**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372**

38YR old farm worker, medium build, seeks female of similar age for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406331** ☺

ATTRACTIVE tall, professional male, GSOH, easy going, likes sport, socialising, seeks female for fun and live life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406317**

CHRIS 45, genuine, honest, caring, N/S, likes cinema, theatre, socialising, seeks genuine, N/S female, 39-45, single mum welcome for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406295** ☺

46YR old stocky male, no ties, shaved head, likes walks, meals out, motor bikes, seeking female for relationship, are you the one? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406291**

SLIM attractive man 51, GSOH, WLTm lady 45-55 for evenings out and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406259** ☺

BROADMINDED 67yr old black male, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks lady, 62-69 for friendship and adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406257** ☺

MAURICE 50's, seeking N/S female for nights out, friendship and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400425**

STRICTLY come dancing. Male 52, trendy, honest, caring, down to earth, fun loving, seeks petite lady, 45-54. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397163**

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405551** ☺

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157** ☺

ROUGH diamond 45 looking for older lady, the older the better, for fun times, can accommodate, let me entertain you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404437**

GEOFF 60's, tall, seeking nice lady for fun, friendship, relationship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406077**

PAUL 46, brown/blond hair, 6ft, slim, single dad, genuine, down to earth, fun loving, kind, caring, likes most things seeking female for love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406007** ☺

PAUL 60, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet, naughty daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405699**

CLUB NEWS

Butcher to meat the ladies

Loyal toast to guild and guest speaker

SHARESHILL WI

PRESIDENT Margaret Beppard welcomed everyone to the July meeting and hoped they were all enjoying the warm weather.

Member Judy Nugent was congratulated on her emerald award from the Blood Transfusion Service for so far donating 80 pints of blood. Dulcie Clewley and Margaret Matthews were both wished a speedy recovery after their recent falls.

Thanks went to Federation chairman Denise Moreton, who represented the WI at the Cardiff AGM, for the comprehensive report on the meeting which was summarised by the president. The Eating Club met at Bantock House; The Darts Club are still practising and the Craft Club provided an exhibition of some of their work for members to enjoy in social time.

Speaker was Helen Seales who talked about the Linus Project, a volunteer organisation aiming to provide a sense of security and comfort to sick and traumatised babies, children and teenagers through the provision of new homemade patchwork quilts and knitted/crocheted blankets.

In August, the weather behaved itself for the annual summer saunter which was enjoyed by all who took part, as was the meal at The Terrace which followed.

The next speaker will be famed local butcher Alan Bennet and there will be a sales table of preserves and produce.



Lady toastmaster Marion Canning was the afternoon's guest speaker

WEST MIDLANDS FEDERATION OF TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILDS

THE federation held its annual lunch at the Mill Hotel, Alveley, in June. After grace by Win Willetts, an excellent meal followed and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The loyal toast to Her Majesty the Queen was given by Jean Williams. Margaret Tew gave a toast to the guilds, then Jen Kerrison responded on behalf of the guilds.

The speaker for the afternoon was Marion Canning, one of the few lady toastmasters, now retired, who gave a very interesting and amusing talk about her career as a toastmaster and the many amusing things that had happened to her during that time.

Three guild members won raffle prizes. There are a few dates for members' diaries, the first of which will be the harvest supper at Wollaston village hall on October 9.

Arts and crafts secretary Jill Attwood has organised a card-making dabble day at Norton Community Association on October 12. An invitation has been received from Birmingham Federation regarding an event on November 6 entitled 'Wish you were here'. Several members will be attending.

The final event of 2013 will be the carol service on December 14 at St Thomas's Church, Market Street, Stourbridge.

Old buildings in the picture

AT THE August meeting, the society welcomed Tim Bridges for his talk on 'Victorian & Edwardian Buildings of Birmingham and the Black Country'.

Tim is the local conservation officer for the Victorian Society and showed wonderful pictures of architectural features of many Victorian buildings in Birmingham.

KINGSWINFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

These included St Martins Church in the Bull Ring, the council house and Town Hall, together with views of pubs, libraries, schools, swimming baths and other public buildings. Reference was also made

to renovation work at the Grand Hotel in Colmore Row which will maintain the street's Victorian look.

Jewellery Quarter views included Gun Proof House, indicating the city's industrial past.



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VIETNAM and Cambodia

The beautiful country of Vietnam is a mosaic of mist-shrouded mountains, vibrant green forests, a patch-work of rice paddies and pristine white beaches, whilst its villages and cities are custodians of the culture and monuments of a unique 2,000 year old civilisation.

In the past few years Vietnam has opened its doors to the world and much has changed. Today, in one of the world's last communist countries, the motorcycles and western dress of the youth happily co-exist with orange-clad Buddhist monks and political posters from a different era.

On this 16-day tour you will visit Hue, one of the country's most beautiful small towns and the former imperial capital. Here you will be able to see the amazing Citadel and its imperial Forbidden City, as well as the magnificent seven-storied Thien Mu pagoda, a working Buddhist shrine.

Contorted by years of erosion, explore the staggeringly beautiful rock formations of Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site from on board a converted Chinese junk. Then in Saigon you will be taken on a visit to the Cu Chi tunnels, a complex underground network which provided a base for the Vietcong from which to attack US forces. You will see the tunnels themselves and examples of the many mantraps and stake pits which protected them.

The overwhelming image of Vietnam is that of a country blessed with extraordinary beauty and the friendly Vietnamese always courteous and proud to show of their wonderful country.

In Cambodia you can experience the haunting soft morning light rise over the eerie temples of Angkor. Then later discover the huge fortified 13th century city of Angkor Thom, with its five monumental gates, and 300ft wide moat – its centre containing one of Angkor's most remarkable sites, the temple of Bayon.



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Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



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* various according to departure date please go to website for the latest prices

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NEWS

Call for barriers rethink by traders with petition

Cake going for a Burton



Jules Scholfield with the cake she made to mark Tim Burton's birthday

BAKERS served up spectacular cakes as they took part in a world-wide celebration of film director Tim Burton's 55th birthday. The masterpieces were inspired by The Nightmare Before Christmas.

Jules Scholfield, who runs cake shop Marzipan Moon & Sugar Dust Stars in Lye, paid homage to Doctor Finklestein while her friend and home baker Sarah Russell, from Worcester, recreated

the character Barrel. Her cake stands at around 20 inches high.

One hundred bakers took part in the celebration with all of the cakes unveiled on the Cakenweenie website. Mrs Scholfield, aged 49, from Wolverley, said: "When we heard about the Tim Burton project it seemed a really good idea as we love his films."

Log on to www.cakenweenie.com

TRADERS have signed a petition demanding highways officials rethink a decision to install plastic barriers on a busy road in Dudley town centre. Around 20 business owners back the campaign.

They have signed up to voice concerns after red and white barriers were laid along a narrow stretch of Wolverhampton Street off High Street.

Dudley Council bosses said the barriers were installed because of problems with parked cars on double yellow lines blocking the pavement and road.

They say this caused heavy lorries to swerve up onto the opposite pavement cracking slabs and brickwork.

But traders say they were not fully consulted over the move and want urgent talks with the highways department at the council.

Mohammed Sagir, who has run his mobile phone store Direct Link for 12 years, gathered a petition after becoming increasingly frustrated by the barriers which have been in place around three weeks.

Concerned

He said litter was now gathering around the barriers as road sweepers could not get close enough in order to clean the street properly.

Mr Sagir said traders had received a letter in recent days detailing the action but he said it was too late after they had already been installed.

"We are getting no response from the council and I'm concerned they are not listening," he said.

"There is litter collecting around here now which is not making the street look good for shoppers."

Avinash Kumar, who owns the Gala coffee lounge and takeaway, said: "It has caused more disruption and is a hazard in the street. It has caused some bad feeling."

Dudley Council's transport boss, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "We have written to Mr Sagir and other traders in Wolverhampton Street to explain the work and we will monitor the situation before making a decision on a permanent solution as soon as possible."

MUSIC NEWS

Getting a musical insight into Dan's state of mind

Reaching for a State of Mind
Dan Whitehouse

THIS may only be Dan Whitehouse's second full album, but you very quickly realise he has much more maturity and experience of creating music and songs than just two CDs can indicate.



Dan Whitehouse

Dan, originally from Wolverhampton now working mostly from Birmingham, has done his time, mainly on the folk circuit.

The opening track, A Dream That's Floating Out To Sea, is precise in its lyrics and hypnotic in the music and that attention to detail shows in every track on the album, which come from a weird and wonderful collection of inspirations not least of which is Mog's Reel which originates from Downs' Mini car.

The guitar playing on this and every track is precise, crisp and while paying homage to the traditions of folk somehow has the clean

Precise playing with traditional folk roots

Runes - Whalebone

WHALEBONE is made up of excellent musicians who are clearly experts at their craft. You only have to listen to the first track, Origins, on their latest and fourth album Runes, to realise how accomplished, finely attuned and in touch with the sound they create, they are.

The Shropshire band comprises Steve Downs, on guitars, mandolin and percussion, Charlotte Watson on guitar and percussion and Sarah Ibberson on fiddle and cello.

Whalebone do not really do vocals they concentrate purely on the music and that attention to detail shows in every track on the album, which come from a weird and wonderful collection of inspirations not least of which is Mog's Reel which originates from Downs' Mini car.

The guitar playing on this and every track is precise, crisp and while paying homage to the traditions of folk somehow has the clean



Whalebone from left Charlotte Watson, Steve Downs and Sarah Ibberson

construction of a modern sound. One of the most emotive tracks is Christchurch Cathedral, which gives Ibberson free rein to show off her talent for strings.

Whalebone has a wonderful talent for creating images which is almost akin to painting with sound.

Even the partial lament, The Birds Are Still Singing has that ability to carry you off to wherever your imagination wants to take you. Runes is released on Two Wild Women label on September 15 visit www.whalebone-music.com

Runrig mark 40 years of music

Stepping Down the Glory Road - Runrig

RUNRIG were formed on the Isle of Skye 40 years ago and to mark this milestone a six CD set has been put together which is a musical journey covering their time with Chrysalis records. The eight year period from 1988 to 1996 was the band's most successful. The Celtic folk/rock band which was originally named the Run Rig Dance Band was formed by brothers Calum and Rory McDonald. There are nearly a 100 tracks on the box set which covers the wide range of evocative and emotive sounds Runrig produce in a big way. Stepping down the Glory Road (The Chrysalis Years 1988-1996) 6 CD set is out now.

Danny Farragher

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What's On! Stourbridge

Newman stages a return



New tour – Rob Newman
COMEDIAN, journalist, novelist and activist Rob Newman kicks off a brand new tour this month and will stop off in Wolverhampton and Birmingham. After a seven-year absence from the stage, Rob Newman's Theory of Evolution begins its 22-date tour on September 12. It follows a sell-out London run.

Challenge

In the show, the funnyman details the 150-year controversy in evolutionary theory. His compelling and comical challenge to dominant theories promise to not only make audiences laugh, but to also leave them questioning life as they know it.

Newman made his name on The Mary Whitehouse Experience and as comedy partner to David Baddiel.

He appears at the Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton on September 22 (call 0870 320 7000) and the Mac, Birmingham on October 19 (Call 0121 446 3232).

Strictly easy step to win tickets for charity show



IT'S Strictly Dancing with a difference and is guaranteed to put a spring in the step of six deserving charities.

Building on the success of their recent charity events Punjabi Wolves have organised Strictly Dancing with Wolves, a twist on the popular TV reality series. And a host of local personalities including, ex-Wolves player Mel Eves, Big Brother contestant Deana Uppal, BBC reporter Laura May McMullan, five-time world kickboxing champion Kirk 'Fire' Walker, Miss Teen Wolverhampton, Sasha Lyttle and other willing novice individuals.

They will be teaming up with local dance schools from around the Midlands to compete in the competition on Friday, September 27 at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall. And you could be there – the Chronicle are offering 10 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.*

Dance schools taking part will be Zig Zag Dance Factory (Wolverhampton), Dance Warehouse (Birmingham), Premier Dance School (Stoke-on-Trent), Dance Magic (Wednesbury) and Eminence Dance Works (Dudley).

Executive

This event is set to raise awareness and funds for six charities supported by Punjabi Wolves – Promise Dreams, Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity, Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM), India Project & The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust.

Ticket prices start from £12 for balcony seating, £29.50 for executive seats including a three-course meal and for those wanting a more VIP experience up close to the stars on the dance floor, £39.50. To book your tickets, email news@punjabiwolves.co.uk or call Midland Box Office: 0870 320 7000.

*To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets simply answer the following question.

What is the price of the VIP experience?

Send answers to Strictly Competition Chronicle editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, September 12. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.



Mel Eves practising with Laura Fox from the Zig Zag Dance Factory

Nizlopi are digging in to festival

NIZLOPI may sound like an anagram but they are responsible for the huge cult hit JCB Song.

They will be bringing their particular brand of music to the Stourbridge Folk Festival on Sunday.

Also at the festival which is being staged at the Redhouse Glass Cone, High Street, Stourbridge are local legends The Bushbury Mountain Daredevils, who are celebrating their 20th Anniversary Reunion.

Talented Stourbridge guitarist and singer/songwriter Sunjay Brayne is also on the bill along with Rory McLeod, Nick Harper, Kim Lowings & The Greenwood and Dirty Old Folkers.

Tickets are £22.50 and for more information visit www.katiefest.co.uk



Stourbridge singer songwriter Sunjay Brayne

Taking lid off Jam's classic LP

THE music of the mods and classic anthems of the new wave punk scene will soon be pounding out at two key Midland venues.

The Jam bass player Bruce Foxton and his band From The Jam will be performing the classic album All Mod Cons in its entirety at Birmingham Town Hall on September 19, then The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton Civic Centre, on December 12.

The gigs are part of a three month tour marking the 35th anniversary of the seminal album's release in 1978 which spawned enormously influential tunes such as Down In The Tube Station At Midnight and A Bomb In Wardour Street. Bruce says: "The energy in rehearsals is great and we're really looking forward to getting back on the road."

The Jam exploded onto the punk scene in 1977 delivering their farcious mission statement – debut single In The City – quickly establishing themselves as the sound of The British youth. In 2000, Q magazine placed All Mod Cons at Number 50 in its list of the 100 Greatest British Albums Ever.



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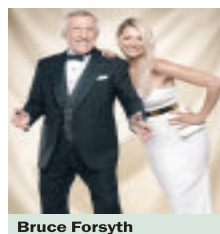
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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 7.09.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Bruce Forsyth

Strictly Come Dancing 2013

BBC1, 6.50pm
We don't want to tread on the twinkle toes of the couples over on ITV's Stepping Out, but Britain's most high-profile celebrity dance contest is back – well sort of. We'll have to wait for the contest to start in earnest, but this star-studded launch will give us a taste of what's in store. Everyone from Desperate Housewife Teri Hatcher to Hairly Biker Dave Myers has been rumoured to be in the running, but Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly will finally be revealing which celebs will be joining confirmed contestant Vanessa Feltz on the dance floor.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Football Focus. **12.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **12.10** Live Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Qualifying. **2.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** That Puppet Game Show. **5.40** BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Featuring veteran Blue Peter hosts Peter Purves and John Noakes.

6.50 Strictly Come Dancing 2013. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly host a red-carpet event introducing this year's 15 celebrities to their professional partners, with music by Rod Stewart and Jessie J.

8.10 The National Lottery: Break the Bank. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which three pairs compete in several quiz rounds, with the winners playing for the money in the safe. Includes the National Lottery results.

9.00 BBC News: Weather.

9.20 Last Night of the Proms. Katie Derham presents the grand finale of this year's Proms, live from the Royal Albert Hall, featuring soloists Nigel Kennedy and US operatic star Joyce DiDonato. Continued from BBC2: National Lottery Update.

10.55 Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow. With Shappi Khorsandi, Tom Stace, Steve Hughes and Paul Tonkinson. (R)

11.25 Film: The Recruit. (2003) Thriller, starring Al Pacino and Colin Farrell.

1.15 Weatherview. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.40** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix – Practice One. **8.20** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix – Practice Two. **9.55** Live Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix – Practice Three. **11.10** The Sky at Night. (R) **11.30** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **12.15** Caribbean Food Made Easy. (R) **12.45** Indian Food Made Easy. (R) **1.15** University Challenge. (R) **1.45** Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. (R) **2.45** Wild China. (R) **3.45** Urban Jungle. **4.15** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Meet the Monkeys: Natural World. (R)

6.00 Dragons' Den. A Glasgow couple try to gain investment in their yoga franchise. (R)

7.00 Dad's Army. An invasion alert causes chaos. (R)

7.30 Last Night of the Proms. Martin Alsop becomes the first woman to conduct the traditional finale, which includes pieces by Vaughan Williams, Massenet, Handel, Rossini, Wagner, Britten and Bernstein. Continues on BBC One. (R) **9.20**

9.05 Mock the Week. The comedy quiz returns after a summer break, with Ed Byrne, Stewart Francis and Rob Beckett joining host Dara O Briain and regulars Chris Addison, Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons. (R)

9.35 Film: 360. (2011) Premiere. A businessman struggles with temptation, unwittingly setting off a chain of events with consequences across the world. Drama, starring Anthony Hopkins and Rachel Weisz.

11.20 Film: An Unfinished Life. (2005). Drama, with Robert Redford, Morgan Freeman and Jennifer Lopez.

1.00 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** British Rallycross. **7.00** The Grid. **7.30** FIM World Superbikes 2013. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Undercover Boss Australia. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.05 Double Your House for Half the Money. Sarah Beeny visits a couple whose cottage in Arderns Grafton, Warwickshire, has been extended gradually over time. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows a project to transform a classic 1920s cinema in South Yorkshire into a family home, complete with a hydraulic glass wall that opens up one side of the house. (R)

9.00 Film: Insidious. (2010) Premiere. A family driven from their home by a haunting discover the spirits have followed them and have put their son into a coma. Horror, starring Patrick Wilson and Rose Byrne.

11.05 Film: Don't Be Afraid of the Dark. (2010) Premiere. Horror, starring Bailee Madison.

1.00 Derren Brown: The Guilt Trip. (R) **2.00** Xhoyaks. (R) **4.15** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.05** Countdown. (R) **5.50** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)

12.25 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** British Rallycross. **7.00** The Grid. **7.30** FIM World Superbikes 2013. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Undercover Boss Australia. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

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12.25 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.35** Sluggterra. **11.00** Inside Hollywood. **11.05** Celebrity Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) **12.30** Highland Emergency. (R) **1.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **2.00** Film: Columbo: Ransom for a Dead Man. (1971) Drama, starring Peter Falk. **4.00** Film: The Way West. (1967) Western, starring Kirk Douglas, Robert Mitchum and Sally Field. **6.20** Film: North Sea Hijack (1979) Thriller, with Roger Moore and James Mason. Edited for violence.

8.05 5 News Weekend.

8.05 NCIS. The team investigates the murder of a marine working for the Defence Intelligence Agency who was blamed for the disappearance of 500 specialised rifles in Afghanistan. (R)

9.00 NCIS. An investigation into the death of a seaman leaves the investigators wondering whether Gibbs is about to leave NCIS again, and Ziva introduces her new boyfriend to her team-mates. (R)

10.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The remaining housemates embark on their final week, knowing only one of them can be crowned Celebrity Big Brother winner on Friday night.

11.00 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Psychological analysis of the housemates' behaviour. Last in the series.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.55** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Doctor Who **7.45** Robin Hood **8.30** World's Craziest Fools **9.00** Film: Road Trip (2000). Comedy, starring Brackley Meyer, Tom Green and Seann William Scott. **10.30** Family Guy **11.20** American Dad! **BBC Four**
7.00 Mud, Sweat and Tractors: The Story of Agriculture **8.00** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Earthquakes **9.00** The Young Montalbano **11.00** Mr Blue Sky: The Story of Jeff Lynne and ELO **ITV2**
4.35 Film: Small Soldiers (1998) **6.45** Film: Twister (1996). Action thriller, starring Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton. Including FYI **4.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.45** The X Factor **11.50** The Xtra Factor **ITV3**
3.35 Wycliffe **4.45** Inspector Morse **6.55** Foyle's War. An organised crime racket is investigated. **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Wire in the Blood **ITV4**
2.25 Film: Escape to Victory (1981) **4.45** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **7.00** Cycling: Luella Espana **8.00** Hornblower **10.15** Film: The Krays (1990). Gangster biopic, starring Gary and Martin Kemp. **E4**
3.30 The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Suburgatory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** Happy Endings **9.00** Film: Luke Placid (1999) **10.40** The Big Bang Theory **11.40** The Inbetweeners **Film4**
3.00 Aliens in the Attic (2009) **4.40** The Searchers (1956) **7.00** The Wedding Planner (2001) **9.00** Mission: Impossible III (2006) **11.25** The Hills Have Eyes 2 (2007)

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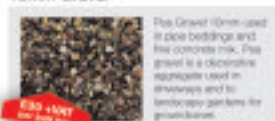
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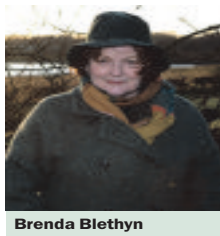
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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 8.09.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Brenda Blethyn

Vera
ITV, 9pm

We're constantly being told that exercise is good for us. However, being a sports fanatic doesn't seem to have done Gideon Frane any good. He's the latest victim whose death is investigated by DCI Vera Stanhope. Frane's charred remains are found after he fell from a Northumberland cliff top in a ball of flames, and it turns out he'd recently received a letter stating he should burn in hell. A further delve into his activities reveals his ex-girlfriend, Izzy Rawlins, had made several complaints against him, claiming he was stalking her. Is she behind Frane's demise?

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live 2013. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Weather. **12.10** Live Formula 1: The Italian Grand Prix. **3.15** Victoria Wood's Nice Cup of Tea. (R) **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Britain's Big Wildlife Revival.

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 **Countryfile.** Matt Baker meets the artists inspired by the village of Staithes on the North Yorkshire coast. Adam Henson reveals the versatility of wheat and Tom Heap investigates solar power.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the experts pay a second visit to the seaford at Eastbourne, East Sussex, where items include a collection of Victorian toy soldiers and an early digital watch. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

9.00 **What Remains.** Len begins to uncover the truth about the fragile lives of the residents and it seems he has made a breakthrough when one of them admits to having had a relationship with Melissa.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 **Room 101 - Extra Storage.** With Craig Revel Horwood, Sheila Hancock and Jon Richardson. Last in the series. (R)

11.05 **That Puppet Game Show.** With Vernon Kay and Mel Giedroyc. (R)

11.45 **Film: Fame.** (1980) Musical drama, starring Irene Cara. **1.55** Weatherview. **2.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 **Film:** Desert Passage. (1952) **7.00** **Film:** They Live By Night. (1948) **8.30** Around the World in 80 Days. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Incredible Spice Men. (R)

12.00 What to Eat Now. (R) **12.30** EastEnders. (R) **2.25** Coast. (R) **2.45** Sailing: America's Cup Highlights. **3.30** Burghley Horse Trials. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.30 **Iolo's Great Welsh Parks**

7.00 **The Great British Bake Off.** Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood assess the contestants' 'dessert-making skills, challenging them to prepare trifles, floating islands of meringue on creme anglaise, and petits fours. (R)

8.00 **Dragons' Den.** One of the Dragons picks up a saxophone to join in with a musical pitch, and a Hull-based entrepreneur faces the panel to try to raise interest in her all-pink car-care range.

9.00 **The Story of the Jews.** Simon Schama examines the struggle of medieval Jews to preserve their identity under Christian and Islamic rulers and tells the story of their mass expulsion from Spain in 1492.

10.00 **QI XL.** With Sara Pascoe, Jack Whitehall and David Mitchell.

10.45 **Blackadder the Third.** The Duke of Wellington challenges the prince to a duel. Last in the series. (R)

11.15 **Film: Shifty.** (2008) Drama, starring Riz Ahmed and Daniel Mays.

12.40 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.35** Holby City. (R) **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R)

7.15 Animals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Fish Hooks. **7.50** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Bottom Knockout Street. **8.15** Bottom Knockout Street. **8.30** Country House Sunday. **9.25** Ade in Britain. (R)

10.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** **Film:** Columbo: Murder - A Self Portrait. (1989) **1.35** Dinner Date. (R) **2.35** The X Factor. (R) **3.40** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **4.45** **Film:** Land of the Lost. (2009)

6.30 **Regional Programme:** Weather.

6.45 **ITV News:** Weather.

7.00 **Coronation Street.** Hour-long episode. The factory workers visit Hayley in hospital.

8.00 **The X Factor.** Invited to Wembley Arena for their second auditions, the singers who have already impressed the judges now have to show they can entertain a huge audience. Dermot O'Leary hosts.

9.00 **Vera.** Delving into the past of an extreme sports fan who has plunged from a cliff in a ball of flames, Vera uncovers a lifetime of bullying and an unexpected story of rough justice.

11.00 **ITV News:** Weather.

11.15 **The Unforgettable Leslie Crowther.** A profile of the game-show host. (R)

11.45 **Premiership Rugby Union.** Action from the opening round of top-flight fixtures.

12.40 **The Store.** **2.40** Motorsport UK. **3.30** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** Ironman 2013. **7.05** American Football: Hard Knocks. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R)

9.00 Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** **Film:** Bugsy Malone. (1976) **4.15** Location, Location, Location. (R)

5.20 **Film:** Stardust. (2007) Fantasy adventure, with Charlie Cox, Claire Danes, Michelle Pfeiffer, Robert De Niro and Mark Strong.

7.40 **Channel 4 News.** **7.55** **The Political St.** Plaid Cymru MEP Jill Evans explains how she thinks European support is helping to combat poverty and unemployment in rural Wales.

8.00 **The Rise of Hitler.** Part one of two. Documentary following the Fuhrer's ascent to power, beginning with his early years and the coup he attempted in 1923, which resulted in his imprisonment.

9.00 **Film: Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy.** (2011) Premiere. A former intelligence operative is brought out of retirement to investigate the possibility of a Soviet mole in MI6. Cold War thriller, with Gary Oldman and Colin Firth.

11.30 **Alan Carr: Chatty Man.** Jamie Foxx and Channing Tatum talk about their new film White House Down. David Walliams chats about his BBC One sitcom Big School and girl group Mutya Katsuhia perform. (R)

12.30 8 Out of 10 Cats: Best Bits. (R) **1.15** American Football Live. **4.45** Ironman 2013. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet.

7.00 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. **10.00** The Mr Men Show. (R) **10.15** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.50** Sluggertta. (R) **11.00** Monkey Lie. (R) **11.40** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **12.40** Celebrity BB

1.40 **Film:** Sabrina the Teenage Witch. (1996) **3.25** **Film:** Pocahontas. (1995) **5.00** **Film:** White Fang. (1991)

7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v Australia.

8.00 **Once Upon a Time.** Storybrooke's self-destruct mechanism is activated. Last in the series.

8.55 **5 News Weekend.**

9.00 **Celebrity Big Brother.** A chance to catch up with the latest events.

10.00 **Film: Mr & Mrs Smith.** (2005)

12.20 **Film:** An American Haunting. (2005) **1.55** SuperCasino. **3.55** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Highlights **8.10** Great Movie Mistakes II: Not in 3D **8.20** **Film:** Ratatouille (2007) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Bad Education **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four **7.00** Mud, Sweat and Tractors **8.00** Ford's Dagenham Dream **9.00** Requiem for Detroit **10.15** **Film:** Silent Souls (2010)

ITV2 **2.50** **Film:** Babe: Pig in the City (1998) **4.40** The X Factor **5.45** The Xtra Factor **6.50** **Film:** Dragonheart (1996) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** The Big Reunion: On Tour **11.00** **Film:** American Pie Presents Band Camp (2005)

ITV3 **1.50** **Film:** The Nun's Story (1959) **4.55** Foyle's War **7.15** Lewis. A woman's murder is copied from the pages of a novel. **9.00** **Film:** Captain Corelli's Mandolin (2001) **11.40** **Film:** Bloody Sunday (2002)

ITV4 **1.40** **Film:** Northwest Mounted Police (1940) **4.15** **Film:** Dunkirk (1958) **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** **Film:** Burn After Reading (2008) **11.00** **Film:** Scarface (1983)

E4 **5.20** The Mindy Project **5.50** The Big Bang Theory **7.15** New Girl **7.45** **Film:** The Devil Wears Prada (2006) **10.00** Rude Tube **11.00** The Inbetweeners **11.35** Don't Trust the B*** in Apartment 23

Film4 **3.05** James and the Giant Peach (1996) **4.40** The Jewel of the Nile (1985) **6.45** Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) **9.00** The Bank Guy (2008) **11.10** Terminal Velocity (1994)

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Film Choices

MONDAY

Operation Amsterdam, Channel 4, 4.10am

A stiff-upper-lipped British Army officer engages in a spot of larceny to aid the war effort. Ordered to Amsterdam, he joins forces with two cunning Dutchmen and steals a secret cache of diamonds from a bank vault, thus preventing the gems falling into Nazi hands. Second World War adventure, starring Peter Finch, Tony Britton and Eva Bartok. (1958)

TUESDAY

The Professionals, Channel 4, 12.50pm

A wealthy Texan hires four mercenaries to rescue his wife, who has been abducted and taken to Mexico by a bandit gang. However, when they find her, she refuses to leave and they have to take her by force – ending in a cross-border chase with the outlaws on their tail. Western adventure, with Burt Lancaster, Lee Marvin, Robert Ryan, Woody Strode, Jack Palance and Claudia Cardinale. (1966)



Sliding Doors, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.20pm

WEDNESDAY

Sliding Doors, BBC1, 11.20pm

A London woman's entire future hinges on whether or not she catches a train. In one version of events, she gets the chance to start afresh and lead a happy new life, but in the other she is stuck supporting her lazy, unfaithful boyfriend. Comedy drama, presenting two parallel stories featuring the same character. Starring Gwyneth Paltrow, John Hannah and John Lynch. (1998)

THURSDAY

Elizabeth: The Golden Age, ITV, 10.35pm

Queen Elizabeth I faces threats at home and abroad, as Mary, Queen of Scots plots against her while the King of Spain builds a vast armada to undertake an invasion of England. Unable to reconcile her feelings for the dashing Sir Walter Raleigh with her duty to her country, the monarch engineers a romance between the courtier and one of her ladies-in-waiting. Historical drama sequel, with Cate Blanchett, Clive Owen, Geoffrey Rush and Samantha Morton. (2007)

FRIDAY

United 93, ITV, 11.05pm

Fact-based drama, re-creating the events on the fourth plane hijacked in the September 11 attacks in 2001. The passengers were by now aware of the destruction at the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon. Realising their plane was about to be used for a similar purpose, they set out to wrest control from the terrorists. Directed by Paul Greengrass and starring Christian Clemenson, Trish Gates, David Alan Basche and Cheyenne Jackson. (2006)

Pick of the Week

There's news for the boys on the front line

Think of the First World War and what immediately springs to mind?

Probably the dirt, squalor and misery of life in the trenches, coupled with a massive loss of life.

There are certainly few laughs to be had whenever the conflict is mentioned – unless, of course, you're a massive fan of Blackadder Goes Forth. But that was a fictional sitcom, and the events depicted in this drama are true.

It focuses on Captain Fred Roberts and Lieutenant Jack Pearson who, in 1916, launched The Wipers Times, a newspaper that turned the horrors of warfare into black comedy and satire, raising the morale of the British Tommies who read it in the process.

This feature-length drama has been something of a labour of love for its writers, Private Eye alumni Ian Hislop and Nick Newman.

"Ian had done a radio documentary about the Wipers Times many years ago and he showed me the paper," says Nick. "But when we got talking about it, it was partly the collaboration and the way these two men worked

together that intrigued us. So that was part of the springboard for our fascination with these stories; we imagined it was a bit how we work together."

"And it's the story about a satirical newspaper produced in 1916," adds Ian. "We both work on a satirical newspaper now. The truth is that theirs was funnier and much harder to do."

"We're doing it in Soho most of the time and they were doing it in the worst possible circumstances. They were incredible. To think that in the middle of it all they were sitting there writing jokes and then printing them up is just amazing."

Ben Chaplin plays Roberts who, at the start of the story, is leading his troops through a bombed-out building when he stumbles upon a printing press.

Coincidentally, his sergeant reveals he was a printer before the war, which inspires Roberts to use the press to produce a newspaper.

Called The Wipers Times (after the way in which British soldiers pronounced Ypres), it's full of jokes,

pastiches and spoofs – an approach that upsets some of Roberts' superiors, but gets the full backing of a general who recognises its worth.

Michael Palin, Emilia Fox and Julian Rhind-Tutt also star in this tale which, at times, seems almost too bizarre to be true.

Nick explains: "We've been very lucky because we've got the original facsimile of the original Wipers Times in their entirety. Also we've got a memoir that Fred Roberts wrote long after the war. Everything in the story is true: there's a meeting with Churchill, there are spies, there's all kinds of detail, which was all absolutely true."

"If you watch the film and you think we've made it up, we won't have, it'll be true," claims Ian. "Roberts' life is extraordinary and he wins the Military Cross in the middle of the War for gallantry, just after producing a magazine at the Battle of the Somme."

There are great performances here, and plenty of stiff upper lips on show – expect to be moved, amused and left on the edge of your seat in equal measure.



Ben Chaplin stars in The Wipers Times, Wednesday, BBC2, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Doc Martin

ITV, 9pm

Port Isaac has been a favoured filming locations for years, thanks to projects such as Poldark, The Nightmare Man, and Oscar and Lucinda. However, in recent years the Cornish village has become synonymous with this series. "The number of people who come to see us now is phenomenal, particularly people from America," explains Martin Clunes. The latest good-looking offering should also attract plenty of viewers as the grumpy GP upsets the new childminder and is left holding the baby. Although Mike agrees to look after James at short notice, Louisa is far from happy with the arrangement, which leads to an argument between the newlyweds as their guests, Dennis and Karen Dods, turn up for dinner.

Blackout

Channel 4, 9pm

For some of us, even a 30-minute power cut is enough to send us into a panic, but what if the blackout lasted days – would we show a bit of Blitz spirit? That's the question posed by this drama, and the conclusions don't sound particularly reassuring. Drawing on expert advice and meticulous research, Blackout follows the first five days of a catastrophic nationwide power cut, caused by cyber attack on the national electricity grid. What makes the drama feel even more real is the use of 'found footage' as the cast, which comprises professional actors alongside members of the public, are filmed on mobile phones, laptops and camcorders – presumably charged before the outage.

TUESDAY

Live International Football

ITV, 7.15pm

Having faced relative minnows Moldova at Wembley Stadium on Friday in what should have been a straightforward affair, England face a much sterner test of their credentials this evening as they take on Ukraine at the Olympic Stadium in Kiev. This is the final away trip of the campaign for Roy Hodgson's men, who have hardly impressed on their travels, only managing to defeat Moldova and San Marino, and gaining draws in Poland and Montenegro. The sides met in their opening qualifier, when only a late Frank Lampard penalty salvaged a 1-1 draw for the hosts, after Yevhen Konoplyanka had opened the scoring in the first half.

The Great British Bake Off

BBC2, 8pm

This show doesn't just bring us an array of baked goods that look so tempting they make us want to lick the screen – oh no, it also provides us with a virtually non-stop stream of gentle innuendo. So, Mel and Sue should be in their element this week as the remaining contestants tackle tarts – well, anything that stops them sticking their elbows in the bakers' muffins, as they did a couple of weeks ago, is bound to be a bonus. The presenters will also be finding out more about the 700-year history of the English custard tart, which also

happens to be this week's technical challenge, and leaves some of our hopefuls looking a bit wobbly.

WEDNESDAY

Big Star's Little Star

ITV, 8pm

Back in 1984, Michael Aspel hosted Child's Play, an ITV series which ran for 75 episodes and featured the hilarious observations of kids. (We suspect laughing gas was pumped into the studio considering the reactions of some of the audience members' reactions). That ran for four years and amazingly ITV bosses left the format well alone. However, this offering exploits

similar themes designed to embarrass and delight semi-famous celebrities such as Sinitta. The occasional X Factor contributor/I'm A Celebrity... veteran will be appearing with her eight-year-old daughter Magdalena; Robbie Savage and his son

Freddie, 7, and Duncan James plays the game with daughter Tianie-Finn, 8. Apparently the show will be filled with celebrity revelations, funny anecdotes and heart-warming moments."

THURSDAY

Peaky Blinders

BBC2, 9pm

It's not every day



Doc Martin, Monday, ITV, 9pm

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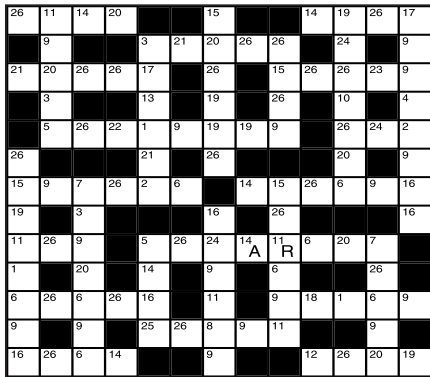
Puzzler

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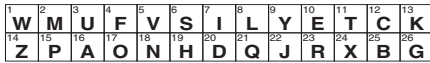
No.237

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

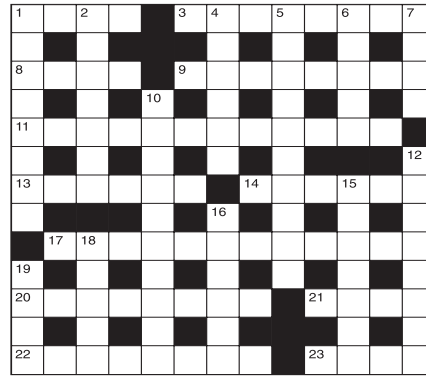
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. An animal for a dollar (4)
3. Cheeky chappie at university (8)
8. She's never after a part (4)
9. Something heard in court, without doubt, gives gratification (8)
11. Go over - to the enemy once more? (12)
13. They're for putting on vegetables (6)
14. It is barred (6)
17. Result of refusing to take things lying down? (5-2,5)
20. Exits? (8)
21. A direction to lower a boat (4)
22. Mislaid one's watch and was held up? (4,4)
23. An indistinct impression of speed? (4)

Down

1. Gave beer as a drink (8)
2. Craft of many a wise man (7)
4. Tell a minister off quietly (6)
5. Is little skill required to sail them? (5,5)
6. Cast down (5)
7. You want to be in it (4)
10. Expanding, becoming more communicative (7,3)
12. The most admirable debtor is one who gives (8)
15. U.S. soldier in a pub? That's reasonable! (7)
16. Enough to prevent parting without meeting (6)
18. Of course they're better devices (5)
19. A spring I pass round (4)



Quick Clues:

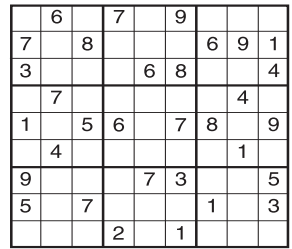
Across

1. Wander (4)
3. Fraud (8)
8. Muddle (4)
9. Adherent (8)
11. Shows (12)
13. Attack (6)
14. Coma (6)
17. Student of insects (12)
20. Lift (8)
21. Greet (4)
22. Scatter (8)
23. Refuse (4)

Down

1. Curative (8)
2. Adopts (7)
4. Genial (6)
5. Magnetism (10)
6. Result (5)
7. Fire-arms (4)
10. Animate (10)
12. Cruelly (8)
15. Secret (7)
16. Spongy (6)
18. Wants (5)
19. Loan (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	9	6	4	7	8	3	2	1
1	8	7	3	9	2	5	6	4
3	4	2	1	5	6	7	8	9
9	1	4	7	2	3	6	5	8
8	2	5	6	1	4	9	7	3
6	7	3	9	8	5	4	1	2
2	3	8	5	6	9	1	4	7
7	6	9	8	4	1	2	3	5
4	5	1	2	3	7	8	9	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Archipelago; 9 Exactor; 10 Worse; 11 Pitch; 12 Threats; 13 Nicest; 15 Deane; 18 Heroine; 20 Legal; 22 Nears; 23 Torment; 24 Antecedents. Down: 2 Reck; 3 Hitches; 4 Parity; 5 Lower; 6 Garbage; 7 Helping hand; 8 Personality; 14 Curtain; 16 Enlarge; 17 Settle; 19 Issue; 21 Great. QUICK - Across: 1 Advancement; 9 Lattice; 10 Lemon; 11 Bloat; 12 Plaudit; 13 Ensure; 15 Psyche; 18 Gainsay; 20 Aesop; 22 Sense; 23 Tribute; 24 Temperament. Down: 2 Ditto; 3 Aviator; 4 Creepy; 5 Malta; 6 Nomadic; 7 Flabbergast; 8 Unattempted; 14 Science; 16 Stadium; 17 Oyster; 19 Steep; 21 Spurn.



Good Night Ring

"Don't know how it works but it does, it's amazing"
Simon B

The Sound of Silence
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Available at Boots, your local pharmacy
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This product has not been proven by a Clinical Trial

star★extraTRAVEL London Theatre Breaks

Choose your show, price band* and how you want to travel

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £129.⁹⁵

Dine and Dance from £139.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance.

For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £139.⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £189.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend from £189.⁹⁵

These popular theatre packages to the West End depart from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package or choose your price band for the Saturday evening performance with the Theatre Weekend package.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratavel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO
HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Two-bedroom property shows a lot of character



There is no upward chain involved with the sale of this two-bed cottage in Stourport

A TWO-BEDROOM character cottage with a long rear garden and off-road parking space in Wilden Lane, Stourport-on-Severn, is for sale, priced at £122,950.

On offer with no upward chain, the property has a living room with open fireplace, kitchen with integral appliances, cellar, two bedrooms, bathroom and potential for loft conversion. The home benefits from wood effect uPVC double glazing and gas central heating, new carpets/flooring throughout and the loft space floor-boarded and plastered.

Set back behind a private residents' parking area with space for one vehicle per property, the house is in an elevated position with steps up to the front which opens to the sitting room with open fireplace and tiled heating.

To the rear is a fitted kitchen with appliances including electric double oven, gas hob and hood with a door giving access to a cellar and stairs to the first floor with a double and single bedroom and bathroom.

Outside to the rear is a shared pathway to a garden area more than 100 ft long with open aspect beyond.

Call Allan Morris & Jones on 01299 825522 for more information.

End terrace with ample car parking – £107,950



Situated in West Bromwich, this end terrace is available through agent WLYP

This two-bedroom end terrace property in Claypit Lane, West Bromwich, is on the market priced at £107,950.

The home benefits from double glazing, central heating, driveway parking and lawned rear garden with accommodation briefly comprising of hallway, fitted kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. On the ground floor the kitchen, 8ft 2in by 4ft 9in, has a range of wall and base

units, roll-top work surfaces, stainless steel sink drainer with mixer tap and gas cooker point with stainless steel hood over while the lounge measuring 19ft 1in by 13ft has a fire surround with electric fire.

On the first floor are two bedrooms and a bathroom with bath with electric shower, WC and pedestal wash hand basin.

Call WLYP on 0121 525 9090 for more details.

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Property Auction

FORTHCOMING AUCTION

Thursday 12th September 2013

To be held at... Aston Villa Football Club from 11.00am

64 Lots to include:

Lot No.	Address	Tenure	Guide Price
1	138 COLLIS STREET, STOURBRIDGE, WEST MIDLANDS DY8 4EE	Freehold Vacant Residential	28,000 - 29,000
2	42 GRASELEY LANE, EDGEMONT, BIRMINGHAM B23 5QH	Freehold Residential Investment	65,000 - 69,000
3	FLAT 1, MILLION COURT, COPPER ROAD, MOSELEY BIRMINGHAM B13 2DP	Leasehold Vacant Residential	35,000 - 39,000
4	FLAT 18 TRAFALGAR COURT, TYNDALE OLDURY, WEST MIDLANDS B89 2DP	Freehold Residential Investment	20,000 - 25,000
5	43 GIBBONS ROAD, TRENCH, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE TF2 7JP	Freehold Residential Investment	75,000 - PLUS
6	3 HOB STREET, MARKET DRIFTON, SHROPSHIRE TF9 1PY	Freehold Vacant Commercial	30,000 - PLUS
7	1182 COUNTRY ROAD, HARVEY B25 8DA	Freehold Vacant Commercial	40,000 - 46,000
8	145 WINDSOR AVENUE, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV4 6BJ	Freehold Vacant Residential	104,000 - 112,000
9	10 SPINNEY ROAD, WILLENHALL, WEST MIDLANDS WV14 5AZ	Freehold Vacant Residential	82,000 - 88,000
10	45 OCCUPATION STREET, DUDLEY WEST MIDLANDS DY1 2PF	Freehold Vacant Residential	50,000 - 55,000
11	24 CHESTER STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV1 7TL	Freehold Residential Investment	70,000 - 77,000
12	18 BELLEVEY GARDENS, MOSELEY BIRMINGHAM B13 9HZ	Freehold Vacant Residential	90,000 - 100,000
13	LAND OFF KENFORD CLOSE, SANDWELL	Freehold Vacant Land	2,000 - PLUS
14	4 KENWORTH COURT, DUDLEY WEST MIDLANDS DY1 2DT	Leasehold Vacant Residential	48,000 - 52,000
15	159 SUMMER STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV5 2JF	Freehold Vacant Commercial	100,000 - 110,000
16	82 DOLLEY ROAD, OLDURY, WEST MIDLANDS B29 8W	Freehold Vacant Residential	80,000 - 74,000
17	7 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, BLOMICK, WALSALL, WS3 2EY	Freehold Commercial Investment	90,000 - 97,000
18	75 COLLEGE STREET, SUTTON COLDFIELD, WEST MIDLANDS B72 1SH	Freehold Vacant Commercial	180,000 - 190,000
19	LAND ADJOINING 28A CULHAM ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B15 2J	Freehold Development Land	165,000 - 180,000
20	426 CHESTER ROAD, SUTTON COLDFIELD, WEST MIDLANDS B73 5BS	Freehold Residential Investment	110,000 - 120,000
21	32 THE PARK, HEWELL GRANGE, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE B97 6GF	Freehold Vacant Residential	105,000 - 110,000
22	407 HAZLEY ROAD, SNETTWORK, WEST MIDLANDS B96 4AK	Freehold Development Land	150,000 - 160,000
23	65 FERRY HILL ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B42 2LG	Leasehold Vacant Residential	90,000 - 84,000
24	10 BLUEBELWOOD CLOSE, WALMLEY, SUTTON COLDFIELD, WEST MIDLANDS B76 2UB	Freehold Residential Investment	100,000 - PLUS
25	12 THE COPPICE, HANDSWORD WOOD, BIRMINGHAM B20 2AD	Freehold Residential Investment	145,000 - 155,000
26	789-777-779 CROFTWOOD ROAD, BINGLEY GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B4 4DD	Freehold Vacant Land	10,000 - 15,000
27	123 HAZEN ROAD COURT, HAZEN HILL ROAD, HALESOWEN WEST MIDLANDS B63 2NF	Leasehold Vacant Residential	60,000 - PLUS
28	UNIT 148 HIVE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, FACTORY ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B15 5JL	Leasehold Vacant Commercial	38,000 - 46,000
29	THE ROYAL GALE CLUB, HIGH STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 9PP	Freehold Vacant Commercial	900,000 - 975,000 - 997
30	THE HOWARD CENTRE, PAPER MILL END INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BIRMINGHAM B44 8BH	Commercial Investment	325,000 - 350,000
31	HOLLIES COTTAGE, WOLVERHAMPTON, SHAPESHILL WOLVERHAMPTON, WV10 7LJ	Freehold Vacant Residential	220,000 - 240,000
32	2 & 2A SMITH LANE, HATTON, STAFFORD ST16 0PP	Freehold Residential Investment	180,000 - PLUS
33	408 MOSELEY ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B12 9AT	Commercial Investment	75,000 - 80,000
34	224 WENSBURY ROAD AND 2 PRINCE STREET, WALSALL WS2 9DN	Freehold Vacant Residential	80,000 - 90,000
35	5 STAFFORD ROAD, MOSELEY BIRMINGHAM B13 8EJ	Freehold Vacant Residential	300,000 - 320,000
36	UNIT 2, 2A MEETING LANE, BIKLEY HILL, WEST MIDLANDS DY5 3LB	Freehold Vacant Commercial	90,000 - 64,000
37	30 CAROLINE STREET, DUDLEY WEST MIDLANDS DY2 7DP	Freehold Vacant Residential	60,000 - 66,000
38	AL FABRICATIONS LIMITED, LOXLEYFIELD ROAD, WALSOWEN, WEST MIDS B62 9AR	Freehold Vacant Residential	180,000 - 195,000
39	40 ST MARKS CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM WEST MIDLANDS B1 2PY	Freehold Vacant Residential	30,000 - 34,000
40	FLAT 10, 1 EDENWOOD COURT, HANDSWORD WOOD ROAD, HANDSWORD B18 2PZ	Leasehold Vacant Residential	48,000 - 52,000
41	227 DOUGLAS ROAD, ACROSS GREEN, BIRMINGHAM, B27 8EX	Freehold Vacant Commercial	100,000 - PLUS
42	PROSPECT HOUSE, 515 COLLEGE ROAD, SNETTWORK, WEST MIDS B96 1LE	Freehold Development Land	400,000 - PLUS (VAT)
43	414A HIGH STREET, DROITWICH, WORCESTERSHIRE WR9 9BW	Freehold Commercial Investment	160,000 - 175,000
44	LAND ADJ FORMER QUARRY SITE, PORTWAY HILL, TYNDALE, OLDURY	Freehold Vacant Land	3,000 - PLUS
45	PROSPECT, 7 & 8 COLLEGE RD, LONG GREEN, NR TENNESBOROUGH, WORCESTER	Freehold Vacant Land	5,500 - 4,500
46	22 HAYFORD CLOSE, ABBEYDALE, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE B96 8AG	Leasehold Residential Investment	42,000 - 46,000
47	283 - 285 HIGH STREET, WEST BROMWICH, WEST MIDLANDS B70 0ND	Freehold Vacant Commercial	275,000 - 300,000
48	53 MERRIDALE STREET, WEST WOLVERHAMPTON, WV5 0JU	Freehold Vacant Residential	50,000 - 64,000
49	565 CONVENT ROAD, SMALL HEATH, BIRMINGHAM B10 0LP	Freehold Vacant Commercial	140,000 - 150,000
50	12 SPRING ROAD, EDGECASTLE, BIRMINGHAM, B15 2HG	Freehold Vacant Residential	185,000 - 195,000
51	LAND LOCATED OFF STRAWBERRY LANE, WILLENHALL	Freehold Land with Potential	10,000 - PLUS
52	251 HOSPITAL STREET, BIRMINGHAM B15 2YH	Freehold Vacant Commercial	90,000 - 100,000
53	LAND ADJOINING 628 BRISTOL ROAD SOUTH, NORTFIELD, BIRMINGHAM B31 2JR	Freehold Vacant Commercial	80,000 - 85,000
54	1401 PERSHORE ROAD, STROCKLEY, BIRMINGHAM, B31 2JR	Freehold Vacant Commercial	80,000 - 87,000
55	1270-1272 PERSHORE ROAD, STROCKLEY, BIRMINGHAM, B31 2JU	Freehold Vacant Commercial	135,000 - 150,000
56	10-11 BRIDGE STREET, HEREFORD, HR4 6GF	Freehold Commercial Investment	74,000 - 78,000
57	92-104 HIGH STREET, DUDLEY WEST MIDLANDS DY1 1OP	Freehold Commercial Investment	60,000 - 70,000
58	93, 94 & 94A HIGH STREET, DUDLEY WEST MIDLANDS DY1 1OP	Freehold Commercial Investment	90,000 - 98,000
59	69-71A MERE GREEN ROAD, SUTTON COLDFIELD, WEST MIDLANDS B75 8BY	Freehold Vacant Commercial	180,000 - 200,000
60	118 REMINGTON ROAD, WALSALL, WS2 7TE	Freehold Vacant Residential	42,000 - 45,000
61	LAND 75-80-82A SHATTHUR, HANE, HALL GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B28 8SX	Freehold Land with Potential	10,000 - 15,000
62	28 FARDON ROAD, ALUM ROCK, BIRMINGHAM, B48 3BS	Freehold Residential Investment	70,000 - 77,000
63	14 ASHCROFT GROVE, PERRY BAR, BIRMINGHAM, B20 2JW	Freehold Vacant Residential	68,000 - 74,000
64	90 CORNFORTH GROVE, BIRMINGHAM, B42 1UT	Leasehold Vacant Residential	55,000 - 59,000

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Halls¹⁸⁴⁵

PROPERTY AUCTION

The following lots will be offered for sale by Public Auction
(subject to conditions of sale and/or prior sale)
on **1st October 2013**

At **BEST WESTERN, Stone Manor Hotel, Stone, nr Kidderminster DY10 4PJ**
at **6.00 pm**

**LOT 1**

**75 Aggborough Crescent,
Kidderminster,
DY10 1LQ**

A well proportioned three bedroom detached home requiring some updating and modernisation, well positioned in this popular and quiet residential location. Vacant possession. Inspection recommended EPC=F

GUIDE £125,000 - £135,000

**LOT 2**

**2 Cathedral Avenue,
Kidderminster,
DY11 6ER**

A well proportioned semi-detached house in this quiet location in need of some modernisation and ideal for young family or investor. Vacant possession.

Inspection recommended.
EPC = D

GUIDE £80,000 to £90,000

**LOT 3**

**2 Leonard Avenue,
Kidderminster,
DY10 2YP**

A well presented two bedroom semi detached bungalow quietly and conveniently situated in this residential cul de sac. Viewing recommended. EPC=D

GUIDE £95,000 - £105,000

**LOT 4**

**Heather View,
Stourport On Severn,
DY13 9PG**

A deceptively spacious timber constructed, brick clad detached bungalow with well proportioned accommodation sitting within a generous plot with private gardens and detached work shop/garage. Viewing recommended. EPC=F

GUIDE £125,000

**LOT 5**

**Bernadine, Lower
Broadheath,
WR2 6QG**

An exciting opportunity to acquire a detached bungalow located within a generous plot in desirable village location.

Featuring versatile accommodation that has great future potential with no onward chain.

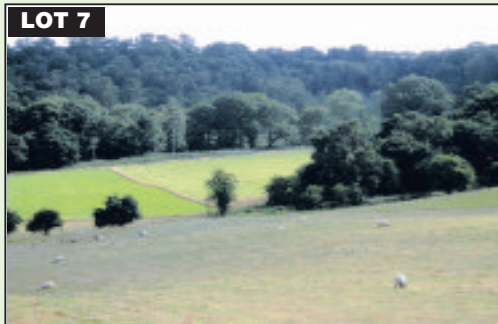
GUIDE £200,000

**LOT 6**

**Croppings Green,
Belbroughton,
DY9 0AJ**

A well situated block of gently sloping pasture land extending to 5.5 acres in three enclosure.

GUIDE £50,000 - £60,000

**LOT 7**

**Horsley Hills,
Wolverley,
Nr Kidderminster
WOODSIDE PADDOCK**

Attractive pasture paddock 3.23 acres
Lane frontage, mains water and fenced.

GUIDE £27,000

**LOT 8**

**Horsley Hills,
Wolverley,
Nr Kidderminster
CORNHILL PADDOCK**

5.22 acres being fenced, private drive and mains water.

GUIDE £40,000

ALL LOTS SUBJECT TO BUYERS PREMIUM
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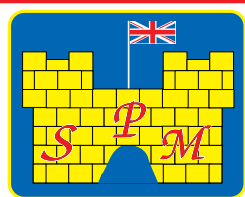
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DUDLEY NEW GREYSTONE PASSAGE FOR SALE £249,995 Large Unusual Detached Property in Central Dudley. Hall, Large Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Utility, WC, Three Good Size Bedrooms, Family Bathroom with Separate Toilet, Two Lofts, Two Garages, Off Road Parking, Lawned Rear Garden and Patio	LYE NEW TALBOT STREET £410 pcm Modern Ground Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished.	PENSNETT NEW ROOKERY PARK £595 pcm Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Part Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Parking for 2 Cars	LANESFIELD NEW FARRINGTON ROAD £650 pcm Semi Detached Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Garage, Front & Rear Gardens, Unfurnished
TIPTON NEW ANITA AVENUE £395 pcm Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Allocated Parking, Unfurnished, • Electric Heating	KINGSWINFORD NEW RAGEES ROAD £340 pcm Purpose Built Studio Style Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Shower Room, Unfurnished, Communal Gardens, Off Road Parking	HALESOWEN NEW APPERLEY WAY £395 pcm Purpose Built Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Maintained Gardens	OLDBURY NEW ASTLE DRIVE £510 pcm Modern Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, En Suite, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking
DUDLEY NEW PEBWORTH GROVE £510 pcm Semi Detached, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens	WORDSLEY NEW JOHN STREET £585 PCM End Terrace Property, Entrance Hall, Two Reception Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Garage, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing	PENSNETT NEW COMMONSIDE £450 pcm Mid Terrace House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Gardens, NO PETS	DUDLEY NEW MINEHEAD ROAD £560 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage, Off Road Parking
TIPTON TIPPS STONE CLOSE £410 pcm First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished	COSELEY ROSEVILLE PRECINCT £325 pcm Purpose built flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Off Road Parking	COLLEY GATE WINDMILL HILL £395 pcm First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Unfurnished	SEDGLEY NETHERBY ROAD £595 pcm Semi Detached, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished
DUDLEY LIMES ROAD £495 pcm Modern Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished	DUDLEY HAWKESLEY ROAD £495 pcm Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished	KINGSWINFORD RANGEWAYS ROAD £495 pcm First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished	RUSSELLS HALL MERRYFIELD ROAD £550 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens
OLDBURY THE MOORINGS £410 pcm Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, UNFURNISHED	DUDLEY BOURNE STREET £375 pcm Modern Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Large Bedroom, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking	BRIERLEY HILL BISELL WAY £395 pcm First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking	WORDSLEY TACK FARM ROAD £595 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility Room, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking bay at rear, Front & Rear Garden

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Property

Raised rear garden has an inset rockery



The large kitchen at the bungalow which has room for a breakfast table and features plenty of storage

A TWO/THREE bedroom detached bungalow in Trimpley Gardens, Penn, is for sale with no upward chain at offers around £249,950.

The property is in a cul-de-sac location, near to Penn Common with its lovely walks, church, pub and golf club – and with shopping in nearby Penn and bus services into Wolverhampton, Wombourne and further afield.

The bungalow benefits from majority double glazing and central heating with accommodation briefly comprising breakfast kitchen and with bedroom three now a dining area off the lounge.

The rear lounge has a fireplace with tiled inset and gas fire and an archway into the dining area/bedroom three, while the breakfast kitchen has a range of base, drawer and wall units, one and a half bowl sink and mixer tap, electric oven and gas hob and the utility room base cupboards, plumbing for washing machine, patio doors to rear garden and door to garage.

The master bedroom has built-in wardrobes and there is a second bedroom and a shower room with wash hand basin, cubicle and WC.

Outside the front of the property is set back from the road behind a block paved driveway with lawn and shrubs, with the rear garden having a large paved patio with steps to a shaped lawn with shrub borders and inset rockery.

Call Berriman Eaton on 01902 747744 for further information.



The bungalow as viewed from the rear garden of 18 Trimpley Gardens



Stepping up from the patio is a lawned garden which is well-presented

Victorian home to suit a first time purchaser

A TRADITIONAL Victorian property in the appropriately named Victoria Road, Bradmore, Wolverhampton, is on the market at £117,500.

Described as ideal for the first time buyer, the home has a low-maintenance courtyard entrance, front dining room, sitting room with feature fireplace, fitted kitchen, separate utility, stripped pine doors, gas central heating and double glazing (where stated), two first floor double bedrooms, refitted bathroom suite with P-shaped bath and shower, on street parking and long rear garden with vegetable plot.

On the ground floor the sitting room has a feature fireplace with living flame gas fire, marble inset and matching hearth while the fitted kitchen has a range of units, stainless steel single drainer sink, work surfaces, display cabinet and door to a separate utility with work surface, plumbing for automatic washing machine and wall unit.

On the first floor bedroom one has a feature cast iron open fireplace



This traditional Victorian property is priced £117,500

while the bathroom has a bath with shower and screen, vanity unit and WC.

Outside the property is approached via a small entrance courtyard with low maintenance garden, dwarf

walling and blue brick path, with the rear garden having a patio area, lawn, shrubs and trees, shed and vegetable plot.

Call estate agent Nick Tart on 01902 755585 for more details.

Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

You'll be sitting pretty with new smaller and lighter C4 Picasso

By Ian Donaldson

A BIT smaller, a bit lighter, a bit more economical and a bit more room for people and things. That's the new C4 Picasso as it updates a very successful formula.

Building on a line of people carriers that began with the Xsara Picasso in 1999, the newcomer adds a touch of style – inside and out – to a class of car that has to major on sense over looks and can easily end up simply dull.

This latest C4 Picasso is anything but boring to look out, doing a good job of hiding the practicality demanded by the young families that are going to take a huge slice of sales.

Inside, with two big screens to look at and the possibility of adding a roof with so much glass it feels like living in a conservatory, the sense of style continues apace. Citroën

licences the Picasso name from the estate of the 20th century artist (at a never revealed cost) and you hope he might approve, given a sight of the car wherever his spirit resides right now. Priced from £17,500 to £24,445, the car is the first Citroën built on a new platform (the most expensive piece of a car to design and build) that we'll see under lots of Citroëns and Peugeot's in the years ahead.

Sibling

A longer Grand Picasso, with seven seats over three rows, arrives in January next year and, if past sales are a guide, will sell more than twice as many in the UK as its smaller sibling.

Citroën was careful to get over the message that the C4 Picasso was more about family practicality than sporting fun before it let the press in its new baby, and it's certainly no contender for pole at Silverstone.

Thank goodness, I say, for a car designed for family life and not weighed down by absurd expectations from a marketing department living in cloud cuckoo land. So it was good to

discover that the air conditioning coped on the hottest day of the year, so hot that stepping out of the car felt like entering a burning house while being gently sprayed with warm water.

A pity, though, that the ride turned unpleasantly pattery over some of the non-descript roads around the launch venue in north London. You can choose a petrol engine in your C4 Picasso, but almost no-one will, going for the diesel option instead. The 92 horsepower version in the test car (a 115hp unit is also available) was peppy enough (106mph, 0-62mph in 12.9 seconds), although the 46mpg recorded on the trip computer was way off the 67mpg returned in the official, but unrealistic, tests the car had to be put through.

The VTR+ plus trim will be the most popular choice in the C4 Picasso line and includes rear parking sensors and a DAB radio on top of cruise control, alloy wheels and dual-zone air conditioning. Practical aspects range from three same-sized rear seats that slide to increase boot room and a front passenger seat that folds flat.



A petrol engine is available, but the diesel option is likely to be the most popular choice

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Ibiza SC 1.4 Toca - Solutions (PCP) finance representative example based on 10,000 miles per annum*

Duration:	42 months	Customer deposit:	£2,896.97	Customer offer price:	£9,995.00	Acceptance fee ¹ :	£125.00	Option to purchase fee ² :	£60.00	Amount of credit:	£7,098.03	Rate of interest:	6.9% fixed
41 monthly payments of:	£105.00	Customer saving:	£2,710.00	Retail cash price:	£12,705.00	Optional final payment:	£4,102.20	Total amount payable:	£11,489.17	Representative APR:	7.9% APR		

7.9% APR representative

Official fuel consumption for the SEAT Ibiza SC range in mpg (litres per 100km): urban 35.3 (8) - 67.3 (4.2); extra-urban 55.4 (5.1) - 91.1 (3.1); combined 47.9 (5.9) - 80.7 (3.5). CO₂ emissions 139 - 92g/km. Standard EU Test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Model shown is an Ibiza SC 1.4 85PS Toca in Emoción Red. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Retail Sales only. ¹Payable with first payment. ²Payable with optional final payment. ³5.8p per mile excess mileage charges apply. Further charges may be payable if vehicle is returned. Indemnities may be required. Subject to vehicle availability. Subject to status. Available to over 18s in the UK from participating dealers only. SEAT Finance, Freeport SEAT Finance. Subject to each model specification and cost option fitment. Pricing and finance valid from 1st July 2013 to 30th September 2013. ⁴Saving refers to money off RRP on Ibiza SC 1.4 85PS Toca model at £12,705. Finance providers may pay us for introducing you to them.

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Motoring Small cars with big designs stand out

Nissan's small car model range has the B-segment covered.

Combining bold design, a host of sector-first technologies and trademark Nissan innovation, the all-new Note, new Micra and latest Juke line-up now form the most comprehensive, diverse and exciting B-segment range on the market.

At the heart of Nissan's new B-segment line-up is the all-new Note. Designed and engineered for the European market, it introduces a bold design, breakthrough sector-first technologies, exceptional practicality and unrivalled value for money, and will compete head on with the likes of Fiesta and Polo.

Seamlessly connecting design and technology, the new Note – which is built at Nissan's Sunderland plant – brings a number of innovative premium features to the small car market for the first time. From the Nissan Safety Shield – which links three safety systems to create a comprehensive protection and driver assistance package – to the advanced around view monitor which gives a 360-degree bird's eye view when parking, the new Note sets the benchmark for accessible premium technology.

Joining the Note in Nissan's exciting small car range is the new Micra. With



Nissan's new Note features the advanced Safety Shield protection package

over 30 years of history and sales of over six million units to date, the Micra remains one of Nissan's most recognizable and popular cars around the world.

In typical Nissan style, the new Micra benefits from a raft of new innovations and design touches designed specifically to make life easier and more enjoyable. Nissan's latest Connect navigation and communication centre joins the range, while a new and expanded set of personalization options gives buyers the opportunity

to create their perfect Micra. Nissan's drive to deliver advanced engineering to all its B-segment offerings is further demonstrated by the arrival of a new Juke diesel.

Developed by Nissan Alliance partner Renault, the new engine features Stop/Start idle system as standard for the first time and incorporates revised gearing for better drivability and refinement. A significant increase in torque (up from 240Nm to 260Nm) and improved turbo response at low engine speeds delivers

improved flexibility and performance. With lowered CO emissions of just 109g/km and a 12.5% improvement in fuel economy, the Juke represents an even more compelling package for small car buyers looking to stand out from the crowd.

"The arrival of the new European-built Note, new Micra and new-generation Juke diesel gives Nissan one of the most comprehensive small car ranges on the market." Sales of Nissan's new Note will begin in the autumn.

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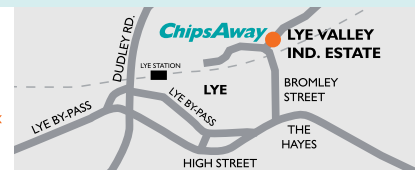
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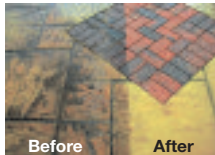
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2001, 2 berth, end bathroom, full cooker and fridge, CH, motor mover fitted, full awning and porch awning + extras.
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6ft8 high x 3ft13.5 wide, oak effect sides, black glass doors, £100.

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CAERSWS, MID WALES Offers over £150,000.

A very attractive 5-bed character home of 1870s, low maintenance gardens with old wash house and water feature. Hall, reception room, sitting room, dining room (parlour), kitchen, utility, ground floor shower room wc and handbasin, 1st floor bathroom. Village amenities near by garage / mini market / news agents, butcher, pubs, rail station, hairdresser, grocery store, post office, doctors, regular bus / train services, primary school and churches. 01686 689104.

GROUND FLOOR FLAT Bought after area, 2 bed, GCH, Penn area, corner position, car parking space, £115,000 ono. 01902 331155.

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OLD BURY Blackheath / Dudley, 1/2 bed, Deposit / rent negotiable. 0121 550 0064/07970 980955.

ONE BED GROUND FLOOR FLAT, nice area, Moathouse, Wednesfield, £400pcm. 07976 424634.

ONE BEDROOM FLAT ground floor, Goldthorn Park, Wolverhampton, part furnished. 01902 687808.

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houses for sale

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A very attractive 5-bed character home of 1870s, low maintenance gardens with old wash house and water feature. Hall, reception room, sitting room, dining room (parlour), kitchen, utility, ground floor shower room wc and handbasin, 1st floor bathroom. Village amenities near by garage / mini market / news agents, butcher, pubs, rail station, hairdresser, grocery store, post office, doctors, regular bus / train services, primary school and churches. 01686 689104.

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OLD BURY Blackheath / Dudley, 1/2 bed, Deposit / rent negotiable. 0121 550 0064/07970 980955.

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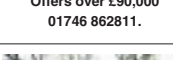
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FORD C-MAX 1.8LX, silver, 05/55 reg, 64k, 2 owners, fish, 9 months tax, recent tyres, exceptional car. £2,600 ono. 01384 918472.

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01384 377807/07880 706331.

NISSAN QASHQAI, 58 plate, 16,000 miles, black, air con, MoT, tax, alloys, petrol 1.6 excellent condition, £8,000. 07768 165920.

PEUGEOT 307XSI 2.0, black, 3 door, 2004, 40,000 miles, tax, MoT, very good condition, £2,500. Telephone 01902 671634.

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MAXWELL SCOLAR WATSON (Deceased) Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 27 Park Street, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 1BY, who died on 03/01/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 15/11/2013, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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10 Personals

sports clubs

BLOXWICH YOUTH BULLETS Under 11s School year 6. Are looking for reliable, experienced players to strengthen our current squad. If you want to enjoy your football and are willing to learn please contact Manager David Jones on 07916 673342. harol@btinternet.com

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Lawson's century is pivotal for Penkridge

Stourbridge 2nd XI 185-6 Penkridge 2nd XI 189-4
Penkridge win by 6 wickets
 SKIPPER Mikesh Patel won the toss and saw teenager Christopher Norgrove amass 98 no.

Another teenage star Will Jennings scored 33 to give his side a defendable total.

But Stour struggled to take the wicket of Andrew Lawson who went on to make a ton before Ian Brown (33no) and Simon Parnaby (24no) took their side to victory in the 36th over.

Stourbridge 3rd XI 212-2 Hallow 3rd XI 209
Stour win by 8 wickets

Skipper Dave Colesby won the toss and put Hallow in, restricting them to 209. Teenage paceman Alex Colman took 3-52 off 14 overs.

Hallow opener and skipper Greg Fowler gave his side a start with a stubborn 69 and middle order batsman Connor Murphy consolidated with a 64.

Stour's top order reached the target for the loss of just two wickets. Opener Arif Khan made a solid 54 backed up by Shaheel Khawar (67no) and teenager Mathew Norgrove (54no).

Fallowfield blitzes the opposition

IN a pre-season blitz tournament players faced seven rounds of quick chess with a time control of eight minutes per player, per game.

The winner was the unstoppable Jeremy Fallowfield with a perfect seven points.

Two players Steve Jukes and Julie Wilson tied for second place a long way behind on four and a half.

The season proper is now under way with both Stourbridge teams playing their opening matches in the Birmingham league.

The newly promoted first team are away against Olton in division 1 on September 10 and the second team are away against Westminster in Division 3 on the 11th.

Stourbridge are fielding teams in the Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Worcester and Dudley leagues.

If you are interested in playing for Stourbridge or would just like to improve your game, phone Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk for more information.

Co-driver out for eight weeks after crash

STOURBRIDGE rally driver Richard Sykes had mixed fortunes on last weekend's double-header BRC Challenge event in Ulster.

His podium finish on the first event was followed by a dramatic accident on the second.

Sykes and co-driver Simon Taylor went into the weekend looking for two victories to boost their hopes of retaining their BRC Challenge championship crown.

A cautious start was made on the opening day, the first stage was very wet and Sykes dropped a few seconds to the leading crew in his Citroën C2 R2 Max. A long 14 mile

stage was next and Sykes used intermediate tyres as it was still wet but this proved to be a mistake as the tyres went off after the halfway point causing more time to be lost.

"Conditions were very wet on stage one," said Sykes. "We were slightly cautious as, with it being a double-header, we couldn't risk an accident on the first event."

"I thought intermediate tyres would be the right choice for stage two but after eight miles they turned into blanchmange which made driving very interesting."

"At this point we'd dropped to

Rally Driving

fourth with the championship leader Russ Thompson ahead of us."

Sykes pushed hard in the remaining stages and with one stage to go he was 7.5 seconds behind Thompson. It was dry enough for Sykes to use soft slick tyres and a storming run through the last stage saw him take 15 seconds out of Thompson to get into third place at the finish.

The team made a decision to go all out for a win on the second event with the car set up aggressively

and fitted with hard slick tyres for opening 14 mile Sloughan Glen stage.

Sykes was going well but part way through he approached a right hand bend flat out and took it too quickly. The car slid off and hit a bank, coming to an instant stop.

"We went from 90mph to zero immediately, it was probably the biggest impact we've ever had," he said.

"Simon injured his back so could not get out of the car right away but we eventually got him out and laid him down while we used the Rallitrac safety radio to get help.

He was stretchered to hospital with a neck brace and back board.

After an X-ray and CT scan he was diagnosed with a compound fracture in his L1 vertebrae. After being kept in overnight he was allowed home the next day.

Sykes added: "The championship is now probably out of reach but we will soldier on and repair the car in time for the Trackrod Challenge rally at the end of September. I will need a stand-in co-driver though as Simon needs eight weeks off. We're still third in the championship so we'll continue to push for a great result."

Stour in the running as contenders are beaten

Harbourne 1st XI 213 Stourbridge 245-8

Stourbridge win by 32 runs

STOURBRIDGE First XI beat Harbourne 1st XI - favourites to take the second spot in Division Two of the Birmingham and District Premiership league.

Oswestry will take top spot needing just four more points from two remaining matches. Stourbridge are still in the frame for promotion alongside Old Elizabethans if Harbourne slip up. Two teams will be promoted.

Harbourne skipper Rajiv Sen won the toss and decided to bowl, a decision that paid dividends as Stour crumbled to 17-3.

Stour lost two further wickets James Lawley, lbw to George Land for 16 and Adam Lawley, bowled by the spinner Matt Twigg for 21.

It appeared to be all over for Stour, as they were five down for 93 off 19 overs.

A late rescue act from acting skipper Josh Banks and Matt Bradley batting at No.6 and No.7 respectively gave the visitors an unlikely sniff of victory.

They put on a chanceless 127 in 23 overs to take Stour over the double hundred mark. When Banks was out for 71 he had batted for three hours 14 minutes to drag his team out of trouble.

Belligerent hitting by the No.9 James Wood followed, hitting 25 off 13 balls including two straight sixes.

Harbourne's innings started well the opening pair looking solid.

Left hand leg spinner Audy Alexander provided the breakthrough taking the

Stourbridge CC

wicket of Darren Franklin for 20. Gurig Randhawa was caught behind off Bradley for one and James Winders bowled the dangerous Andrew Lloyd for a duck.

At 114-3, opener Mathew Parker was playing an anchor innings.

He and Nirrushan Raveenthiraraja helped stabilise Harbourne's rocky innings. But the match

turned once again as Ali Shah had the latter brilliantly caught in the covers for a defiant 37.

Stour captured three more wickets including that of Parker for 43 as Harbourne tumbled to 138-7 off 35 overs.

There was yet another twist as the No.8 Land tore into the Stour bowling making the best of the short boundaries.

Land took the score past 200, but the introduction of Adam Lawley had him caught at short mid off for 74 leaving his side adrift.

Stour's bowlers finished the job leaving Harbourne stranded 32 short.

Goals hale down by the dozen as Elite shutout



Halesowen's Angie Morley scores one of a dozen the Yeltz Ladies put past Elite in the last of their friendly matches

Fc Elite 0 Halesowen Ladies 12

HALESOWEN for their final friendly travelled to Perry Barr to take on FC Elite who are a new side but all experienced players from other teams last year.

Without key players Halesowen were forced to make some changes.

Halesowen got off to a bright start playing the ball well around the pitch.

Rachel Letford got Yeltz off to a flyer within five minutes by a perfect cross by Lyndsey Glover, Letford made it two two minutes later with a through ball from Haley Chatwin.

Chatwin then forced a defender to put it into her own net. Halesowen

were firmly in control and the home side were under constant pressure.

On two occasions the Yeltz defence was breached but the fantastic keeping of Hannah Tromans kept another clean sheet for Halesowen.

Goals were coming quick and fast. Defender Charlotte Byatt scored a penalty on 35 minutes. Katie Moore scored her first goal with a tremendous volley near half time, Gemma Moss even had time to score.

However, keeper Tromans hurt her hand and had to come off injured.

Second half the players were asked to keep possession rather than go for goal and as requested they passed the

ball well and even then, still the goals kept coming with Glover scoring straight from a corner.

Skipper Glover then put through Chatwin for her second then stand-in keeper Lauren Gilberto's powerful goal kick bounced completely over the defence which allowed Letford her hat-trick.

Angie Morley scored a floating shoot in which there was nothing the keeper could do then wingback Shell Thomas finished the rout with a simple tap in from close range.

Credit to the Elite side they never gave up, but the Yeltz squad was just far to good on the day.

Maya, 8, wins walk on role for big game

A DUDLEY girl has won the chance to play her part in an international football match in Wales.

Maya Tranter, aged eight and from Brierley Hill has won the chance to walk out at Cardiff City Stadium on September 10 with the Wales international team before their FIFA World Cup Qualifying match versus Serbia.

It will be a fantastic day out for Maya, who as a McDonald's player escort will walk out with the likes of Gareth Bale, Ashley Williams and Aaron Ramsey as they look for revenge for the 6-1 defeat suffered in Novi Sad last September.

Maya, who won the player escort place after entering a national competition via McDonald's website mcdonalds.co.uk/kickstart, said "It will be amazing to walk out on to the pitch with the Wales team. I can't wait to meet the players and see the stadium!"

Ian Rush, MBE and McDonald's Director of Welsh Football, added: "This is a chance for Wales to overtake Serbia and move into third in the group - which would be a great achievement."

"The atmosphere will be electric and I'm sure the player escorts walking on to the pitch will have a fantastic time."

Marathon entries for sports club

MEMBERS from Stourbridge running club were out in force for a Wolverhampton Marathon at the weekend.

The club had nine runners competing in the Wolverhampton Half Marathon.

First out of a field of 780 runners was Matthew Cooper with a time of 1.25, he was 22nd to finish.

Second was Sebastian Nicolas (174th) with 1.42 and third Steven Burch (243rd) with 1.47.

Also club member Joan Clarke took part in the Pathfinder Marathon, a very difficult 42km race in Cambridgeshire.

The event is named after the Second World War Pathfinder Squadrons which flew from airfields surrounding the area.

Joan completed it in 5.05 on what was a very hot day.



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Another painful day for the fans

Albion 0 Swansea 2
WHAT Albion fans needed was an afternoon of escapism from the grim reality of the transfer window.

What they got was a painful reminder of the problems that have many at The Hawthorns fearing the worst. Another game without a goal or point.

And another occasion that fuelled growing concerns that last season's eighth-place finish is as good as it gets for the Baggies in the Premier League era.

Nicolas Anelka returned to the scene after a brief leave of absence that seemed for several days like it might become a permanent departure. And the 34-year-old had enough encouraging moments to suggest his recruitment might still yield some useful dividends.

Anelka was used against the Swans as the lone central striker as Clarke reverted to the 4-2-3-1 system that worked best for longest last term.

The meeting of the teams had more to commend it to Baggies fans than that horror show in Wales.

It was the Swans who led at the break thanks to full-back Ben Davies. Vorm was never called upon to make a save as any tempo the Baggies had fizzled away in a lethargic second half. Michu teed up Hernandez for an easy second.

Albion boost keeper spot

ALBION have strengthened their goalkeeping department by recruiting Northern Ireland international Lee Camp.

The Baggies have signed the 29-year-old on a rolling monthly contract until January after Ben Foster was ruled out for up to 12 weeks with a stress fracture in his right foot, which he suffered at Everton nine days ago.

Camp, who was a free agent, has made 349 league appearances during spells at Derby, Burton, QPR, Nottingham Forest and Norwich and also has nine caps for his country.

Goalkeeping coach Dean Kiely has welcomed the addition of Camp, who played three times in the Barclays Premier League for Norwich last term.

"Lee will bring experience and authority to the goal-keeping department," said Kiely.

Welborn goes head to head as title fight nears

ROWLEY Regis' Jason Welborn and Birmingham's Max Maxwell went head-to-head as the build-up to their British Masters Light Middleweight Title fight gathers momentum.

The pair met at the scene of next week's clash, Walsall Town Hall, and both were in confident mood ahead of Saturday's fight night.

Welborn made an impressive start to life at light middleweight by convincingly beating Poland's Tomasz Mazurkiewicz back in June. Before that, he had operated at welterweight and fought Frankie Gavin for the British Title back in January.

Boxing

Maxwell has been extremely active over the summer. He fought four times in July, including a 6 x 3 contest with Liam Smith, and gave prospect Ronnie Heffron a tough night when they met at the Motorpoint Arena, on the undercard of Nathan Cleverly's clash with Sergey Kovalev.

Welborn and Maxwell are one of nine intriguing bouts taking place on Errol Johnson's 'Boys From The Black Country: The Aftermath' show'. Walsall's Chris Keane steps in with Remigijus Ziausys for a

In the running

Stour team beat the league win favourites
Page 39

Dozen down

Yeltz Ladies hand out a mauling
Page 47



STOUR FALL PREY TO QUICK EAGLES GOALS

Bedford Town 2 Stourbridge 0

THE Glassboys fell to a disappointing defeat at the New Eyrie to slip to eighth in the league standings.

A bright start in the opening quarter of an hour or so by the visitors came to nothing before Bedford stunned Gary Hackett's side with two goals in the space of six minutes.

Despite enjoying the lion's share of the play after that, The Glassboys were unable to turn matters around.

The visitors started in positive fashion to put Bedford on the back foot.

In the ninth minute a kick down field from Dean Coleman was collected by Ben Billingham on the right and he exchanged passes with Luke Benbow before the latter curled a shot from just outside the corner of the box into the arms of home keeper Dan Green.

Launched

Two minutes later Coleman launched forward a long free-kick and Billingham laid the ball off to Sean Geddes who drove a rasping 25-yard effort wide and then on 14 minutes Geddes went closer with a 20-yard free-kick that flashed inches past Green's left-hand upright.

Against the run of play Stourbridge found themselves behind in the 19th minute as Paul Cooper sent in a low cross from the right towards the near post area where Dominic Lawless was upended by a mistimed tackle from Jamie Oliver.

Lawless got back up to slot away the resulting spot-kick to put Bedford ahead.

Things got even worse for The Glassboys in the 25th minute when a low shot from outside the box from

Glassboys

Jeremy Nash was spilled by Coleman straight to the feet of Andrew Phillips who had a simple tap-in to double the home side's lead.

The Eagles were visibly lifted by the goals and with a lead to defend, they battled gamely after that and got numbers behind the ball to frustrate Stourbridge.

An opportunity went begging in the 71st minute with Aaron Drake delivering a deep cross from the right and Richards headed the ball back across the face of the six-yard box towards Rowe who could not direct his header on-target.

Three minutes later Rowe set up Roland Agbor - who had added some pace and energy to the visitor's attack following his introduction - and he cracked in a shot from just inside the box that was pushed away by Green as he dived away to his right.

Stourbridge continued to press and in the 84th minute Geddes slipped a pass inside to Agbor whose cross-shot was blocked.

Geddes pounced on the loose ball but blazed his shot over the bar.

In stoppage time Bedford might have rubbed salt into the wounds but Phillips' effort was parried by Coleman at his near post.

Sako saga forgotten as winning spree goes on

Port Vale 1 Wolves 3

BAKARY Sako's absence from the Wolves squad was the big talking point prior to kick-off. By the final whistle, Kenny Jackett's side proved they can win without him.

The combination of a fourth consecutive victory, the ruthlessness of their finishing and a rousing performance overshadowed the Sako saga.

This follows his decision not to make himself available on Saturday because he didn't feel in the right frame of mind to play after Wolves rejected Nottingham Forest's bid for him.

But the players rejuvenated by this unbeaten start to the season suggested they can succeed without him at this level.

Carl Ikeme, Danny Bath, Richard Stearman, Zeli Ismail, Bjorn Sigurdarson, David Davis, Kevin Doyle and Leigh Griffiths all laid claim to the MotM award.

But the man who was the glue which held it all together was Kevin McDonald. McDonald ran from 10 yards inside his own half for his goal, just like Sigurdarson, who set it up.

Meanwhile, Leigh Griffiths scored his fourth of the season, made the second and started the move for the third. But he further cemented his popularity with the fans by mimicking Lee Hughes' trademark goal celebration and also nutmegging the former Albion striker. The gate of 12,601 -



Sam Ricketts celebrates after Bjorn Sigurdarson scores Wolves' second

swelled by 4,461 Wolves fans - was the biggest league attendance at Vale Park since March, 1998. And they were treated to a highly competitive derby for the first 75 minutes, when Sigurdarson put Wolves 2-0 up.

Substitute Lee Evans, on in first-half injury-time for new-signing Scott Golbourne was the architect of

the 56th minute opener. His superb crossfield ball had Griffiths galloping away in the inside right channel and, after Carl Dickinson and Chris Robertson literally fell over themselves trying to get a challenge in, the Scot cut inside and lashed a shot

inside Chris Neal's post. Vale's fire wasn't really extinguished until Sigurdarson volleyed home the second to convert Griffiths' right-wing centre.

Griffiths then freed Sigurdarson to scamper away down the right before unselishly squaring for McDonald to sidefoot home.

Tom Pope's far-post header two minutes into extra time was a consolation.

Baggies final day transfers

ALBION smashed their transfer record as they pulled off a potential £12m deadline-night double-deal for Stéphane Sessegnon and Victor Anichebe.

Sunderland forward Sessegnon became the Baggies' new record signing with a £5.5m switch from Wearside but Anichebe could break the record again with his move from Everton set to eventually hit £6m.

The Baggies went on a final-day spending spree after slumping to the foot of the Premier League and finally offloaded want-away striker Peter Odemwingie to Cardiff for an initial £2.5m.

Head coach Steve Clarke missed out on a new loan deal for fans' favourite Romelu Lukaku and faces a tricky meeting with former record signing Shane Long after allowing the striker to speak to Hull over a £5m switch, only to pull the plug.

The Baggies confirmed the signing of Sessegnon at around 10.30pm with the down-payment believed to be £5.5m with the fee potentially rising to £6m.

They were then involved in a tug of war with Everton for Lukaku after Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho performed a last-minute U-turn to sanction a loan move.

Snooker women heading for open

TWO top women snooker players from Dudley will be looking to take the honours at the British Open on Sunday.

World number one Maria Catalano and nine-time world champion Reanne Evans will be in action at the British Open at Whitley Bay Snooker Centre.

Also on the programme is a Seniors (40+) tournament.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketterly, Telford, Thursday, September 5, 2013.

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